

THE ETUDE.

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THE ETUDE.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., JUNE, 1888.

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"BROTHERHOOD'S TECHNICON" AND ELEMENTARY PIANO TEACHING.

W. S. B. MATHEWS.

For some time past I have been experimenting with Brotherhood's "Technicon," both upon my own hands and those of my pupils. The results have not only justified all the claims the inventor made for it, but have also led me to the question whether this is not the road to a new departure in piano teaching. The idea of facilitating the training of the hands for muscular purposes by means of a mechanical apparatus is not new with Mr. Brotherhood; on the contrary, Henri Herz had it, Logier, and many others. But Mr. Brotherhood's apparatus has, nevertheless, the merit of novelty in several respects, chief of which I consider its exact relation to the anatomical construction of the hand, and the great mechanical power of piano-playing. Now, that by means of this contrivance it is possible to develop, exercise, and strengthen every part of the hand desirably something which cannot be done so completely by means of piano practice, no matter how assiduous, or how intelligently co-ordinated. For instance, the only exercises known to me as having any considerable influence upon the extensor muscles, which are the slow "Two-finger exercises" of Mason.

In these we do not get any direct strengthening of these muscles through the operation of calling them to do what physicians call "work," because all that we ask them to do is to raise the finger's own weight against the pull of the flexors. In Brotherhood's machine, however, we have abundant means of strengthening them, by causing them to move weights, just as the flexors are continually doing and thereby make them an important accessory to the work of learning to play. The "Technicon" is also excellent for the wrist training it provides; but as I said at the outset, the thing that impresses me most is the thought of what it will provide for every part of the hand. It should be evident, therefore, that for anyone who desired to abridge the labor of obtaining control over the hand, this instrument would be a boon. I find, also, that the claims of the inventor are more than made good in the matter of its conduction to the intelligent sensitiveness of the hand. After using it the hand is not only more flexible but also more obedient, and more easily controlled for musical purposes.

The question is, Does not this instrument mark the beginning of a new epoch in the art of piano-teaching? I am inclined to think that it does, as follows: Pupils spend time at the piano for three purposes: First, to train their muscles to obey the will in the manners required by piano playing; second, to cultivate the musical conception, and to teach one who has learned to play the pieces in hand in third, to unite the muscular operations with the musical conception. These three elements enter into all grades of pupils' practice, and into most of those of advanced players. Some artists, like Sherwood and Joseffy, do most of their practice slowly, their immediate object being to establish the particular order of muscular motions required by the piece in hand. They already have the musical conception, and they already have the fundamental habits of technic. All they want is the detail of the piece before them. It is evident that this method of practice is of a limited application only in so far as pupils are concerned. The pupil has to train his hands, get his musical conception, and unite it to the

muscular apparatus, all at once. Owing to the want of proper analysis he commonly does all three of these things badly, the attention being directed to one point while he is missing it at another. So much is this the case that it is not too much to say that the average pupil loses two-thirds of the time spent in practice.

As already specified, the muscular part of this proceeding, the fundamental part of it at least, can be done upon the technicon better than at the piano. I have the idea that the first part of a pupil's piano education, as such, can best be given through the medium of the technicon after this is over the violin. The voice is the instrument of music which carries within it the presumption of soul; the piano is evidently a *Mechanism*: that it can have a soul is a mystery to be demonstrated by the player at the moment. Now a pupil coming to the piano for the purposes of "learning to play" spends so much time with exercises and with unmusical studies, that it is little less than a miracle if she ever comes to the period when the playing takes on the character of an improvisation—the ideal of all music. But if, on the other hand, she begins her music with *music*, that is to say with singing her head is already "oriented" with reference to the great fundamental distinction between music and mechanics. Then when she comes to the instrument she will *think* music, however she may for a time fall short of making it. This start in the right direction will save a great deal of dry study, for thirty years' experience in teaching has shown me, beyond controversy, that the prime reason why so many pupils fail to play is that their musical life is not awakened. I have seen and heard a good deal during the four years that Mr. T. B. Johnson has been trying his experiments with children's singing in this city. The effect of opening the pupil's mind to musical impressions has been to facilitate their progress in all departments of their study, and, of course, most at the instrument. This was already sufficiently known to old teachers, through the observation of the rapid progress that pupils make who happen to have what is commonly called an "ear for music". These accomplishments in a month what it takes average pupils years to do.

It is in order to develop this faculty of thinking music that I make so much of a point of the pupil's memorizing the pieces she studies. If the musical faculties had previously been developed in her, the memorizing would not have been difficult; she would have taken in the pieces by "unconscious absorption". I have the idea that this development of the musical conception within the pupil might be carried on more successfully away from the piano than at it. It is quite possible to memorize a piece away from the piano just as possible as to do it over again from the piano, or to write a letter without looking the contents aloud. Whenever there is Phantasy within, there is something which is independent of outside interpretation. Now why not have the pupil study the piece away from the piano? Let it be within her powers at first, *easy*. Let her look upon the notes and endeavor to form within herself a conception of its sound when properly performed; very likely the conception will be imperfect. The plain passages of melody and the obvious harmonies she will realize in her mind; but the more involved passages will exist for her only as confused and meaningless successions of notes; what is wanted is to persevere until the process is complete; until the pupil reads a piece of music away from the piano, just as easily and certainly as she reads a book without having the words audibly spoken.

Whatever gains can be made for piano teaching in this way will improve the quality of the playing more than any other form of progress that can be mentioned, because it strikes at the very root of the matter. It cleanses the fountain. It is the great vice of American teaching that it is too dead. No living fault of the system can be remedied by the necessary amount of hearing music. This work of idealizing instruction will be greatly helped by a proper administration of the technical exercises, which show how passages are made up, and familiarize the pupil with pianoforte effects.

I think that elementary instruction might be shortened half in this way, i. e., by using the reading exercises I have mentioned, and the Technicon; and thereby leave time for work in the higher departments of music which now has to go undone. It would also relieve a suffering community from the parts of the burden of piano practice, and those the most objectionable parts it—namely, the mechanical exercises for strengthening the fingers, and the murderous havoc with the second intentions of great masters.

[For THE ETUDE.] CONSECUTIVE FIFTHS

May be found in the works of the best masters, and consequently are admissible when justified by certain conditions. Without those conditions they are absolutely wrong and offensive to every musical ear. For the better understanding of these conditions, it will be well to state that they are most to be dreaded when they appear naked, viz., without the third of the fundamental. But even thus they may be used when certain drastic effects shall be produced, as, for instance, the braying of an ass [strike c, o and then f, c below and the imagination will do the rest], or the tuning of a violin or the imitation of some barbaric instruments and such like. Add the third between the fundamental and fifth and it will sound tolerably bad to any musical ear which can tell the difference between a guitar and a drum, but it will not harm those who are skilled in carrying on a conversation on fashions or horse races during the performance of a Beethoven Sonata.

Perey Goetschius, in his system of harmony, says: "The degree in which this disagreeable effect is produced is exactly proportionate to the prominence of the fifth."

This prominence is weakened or disappears entirely: 1. When the fifths appear in other than the outside voices.

2. When another interval (for instance, the 7th) is added to the 2d fifth.

3. When they appear in arpeggio form.

4. When the 2d fifth is not harmonic.

In this latter case Mr. G. says "the evil is entirely removed." There are some more cases in which consecutive fifth may be harmless, but it would lead me too far to enumerate and explain them. Any composer who has learned how to avoid them will easily learn how to use them: first the rule, then the exception—for you may think as you please, but exceptions will remain forever, and because the greatest masters have used them occasionally, it does not follow that anybody can use them indiscriminately.

E. VON ADELUNG, Oakland, Cal.

TO THE MUSICIANS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

If you desire to see a higher standard of music in America; if you wish to become known as an energetic worker in the cause; if you would like to be associated with those who are in the front-line of musical matters in our country; if you care to keep abreast of this great age of musical progress, you can do so by joining the Music Teachers' National Association. An annual fee of two dollars is all that is required, and it will entitle you to have your name, specialty and address printed in the annual reports, and you will receive the reports, circulars, and other printed documents, from time to time, free of charge.

Whether you can attend the Chicago Meetings or not, will you kindly coöperate with us by sending \$2 to the Treasurer? He will give you a membership ticket, and you will be readily identified with the best musicians in the Nation, and they in turn will be encouraged in their arduous efforts to place our profession in a higher sphere of usefulness.

The Treasurer is Mr. H. S. PERKINS, 162 State St., Chicago, Ill., to whom all fees should be paid, and who will cheerfully answer all questions regarding reduced railroad fares, routes of travel, boarding places, etc. Those who are members and have not paid this year's dues, will kindly send the same to the Treasurer at once. All who can do so should attend the Chicago Meetings; a fine program of exercises has been arranged, and the lectures, discussions, recitals, concerts, etc., will amply repay the time and trouble expended.

H. R. PALMER, Box 2841 N. Y. City,
Vice-President M. T. N. A. for State of N. Y.

M. T. N. A.

THE COMING MEETING.

UNUSUAL preparations are going on at Chicago for the twelfth annual meeting of the Music Teachers' National Association, which will be held in that city July 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th. This meeting will be, perhaps, the most brilliant in the history of the organization. The programme at this date is not yet complete, and even if published at this time would be subject to changes. X. Scharwenka was to have appeared at one of the concerts in connection with Theo. Thomas' orchestra, but his visit to this country has been postponed on account of a strain in his hand. It is understood that he will be connected with the Cincinnati College of Music next year. The following list of artists and essayists is taken from the *Indicator*, of Chicago, and must be considered non-official:

ARTISTS.

Vocalists—Mrs. S. O. Ford, Cleveland, Ohio; Miss Katherine Van Arnhem, of Chicago; Mrs. Jessie Bartlett-Davis, of New York; Mr. Whitney Mockridge, of New York; Mr. Henry Koecke, of New York; Mr. Chas. A. Knorr, of Chicago; Mr. L. Gaston Gottschalk, of Chicago; Mr. Homer A. Moore, of Chicago; Miss Maude Powell, of New York; Mr. S. E. Jacobsohn, of Chicago; Miss Mme. Teresa Carreno, of New York; Mr. Edmund Neupert, of New York; Mr. Richard Burmeister, of Baltimore; Mr. R. Zeckwer, of Philadelphia; Mr. Emil Liebling, of Chicago; Mr. Walter Petz, of Minneapolis. Organists—Mr. Clarence Eddy, of Chicago; Mr. Harrison M. Wild, of Chicago; Mr. Samuel M. Baldwin, of Chicago; Mr. Morse, of Minneapolis; Mr. A. F. McCarron, of Evanston, Ill. In addition to the above the Jacobsohn String Quartet will participate. It consists of S. E. Jacobsohn, 1st violin; Theodor, Binder, 2d violin; Joseph Ohlheiser, viola; Meinhard Eichen, violoncello. Theo. Thomas' orchestra and the festival chorus of 400 voices, with Theodore Thomas as conductor of concerts and S. G. Pratt as chorus master, concludes the catalogue.

ESAYISTS.

J. S. Van Cleve, Cincinnati, O.; J. Brotherhood, New York City; C. B. Cady, University of Michigan; N. Coe Stewart, Cleveland, O.; Rev. J. H. Knowles, Chicago; J. E. P. Aldous, Hamilton, Ont., delegate from the Royal Canadian Society of Professional Musicians; F. Grant Gleason, Chicago; Mrs. Sara Hershey Eddy, Chicago. Pianists—Emil Liebling, Chicago; R. Zeckwer, Philadelphia; Walter Petz, Minneapolis; Richard Burmeister, Baltimore; Edmund Neupert, Adele Aus der Ohe, Mme. Teresa Carreno. Organists—A. F. McCarron, Evanston; Mr. Morse, Minneapolis; Mr. Clarence Eddy, Chicago; Mr. Harrison Wild, Chicago; Mr. Samuel A. Baldwin, Chicago. Vocalists—Miss Mme. Caprini, Henry Koecke, Homer A. Moore, Mrs. S. C. Ford, the Apollo Club of Chicago, and others.

Three concerts of American compositions, orchestra and vocal, with chorus of 400 voices and grand orchestra under the direction of Mr. Theodore Thomas, will be given at the Exposition Building on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the 3d, 4th and 5th of July, at 8 p.m. each evening. The programmes being as follows: Programme of the Tuesday concert, a Interlude from the Irish drama "Vlaude"; a Festive March, motto, "Ecce quam bonum quoniam iocundam habilitate fratres in unum" (Franz Van Der Stucken); symphonic poem for male chorus, solo and orchestra (Frederick Grant Gleason). Mr. Homer A. Moore, baritone; concerto for pianoforte and orchestra, A minor (E. Grieg), pianist Mr. Edmund Neupert (dedicated to Mr. Neupert); "Will o' the Wisps," for female chorus and orchestra (Louis Maas); suite for strings in E major, Op. 12 (Arthur Foote); 126th Psalm for chorus, solo and orchestra (C. C. Converse), vocalists. Programme of the Wednesday concert:—Two movements from symphony in C, a. Thème and variations, b, Tempo di Minetto (G. Whiting); Elegy for chorus and orchestra, (S. G. Pratt); Concerto for piano and orchestra, A minor (Schumann); piano, Miss Adela Aus der Ohe; Ave Maria, female chorus with solo, Op. 4 (Hans Holzer, Hesse); harp, violin and 'cello, obligato and strings, arranger, Mrs. S. C. Ford, of Cleveland, O., and contralto, Baldade and Polomaise for violin and orchestra (Vieux-temps); violinist, Miss Maude Powell; andante and scherzo for strings, Willard Burr; Japanese Overture, C. V. Lahmud; "The Crusaders," cantata for solo, chorus and orchestra, (H. Hiles), soprano, Mrs. S. C. Ford, tenor, Mr. Henry Koecke. Programme of the Thursday concert: "Skirrin-mad," Frey; Longing, from "The Elder Edda," first movement (M. S.) (S. Beck); a. "Two Lovers" (Hecht), b. "Matona, Loveli Maiden" (Lassus), c. "Judge me, O God" (eight part motette) (Mendelssohn), the Apollo Club of Chicago, (W. L. Tomlin, conductor); concerto for violin and orchestra, Op. 18 (Louis Maas), allegro, romanza, allegro con brio;

violinist, S. E. Jacobsohn; Benedictus and Agnus Dei (3d mass, Gounod), the Apollo Club; First Concerto for pianoforte in A minor, Op. 15 (MacDowell), allegro, con fuoco, andante, tranquillo, presto, Mme. Teresa Carreno, pianiste; Symphony, B flat, No. 2, Op. 21 (G. Chadwick), andante, non troppo, allegro, con brio, allegro scherzando, allegro molto con brio.

Complete arrangements have been made with railroads centring at Chicago for reduced rates, also hotel facilities, etc. The secretary, H. S. Perkins, 162 State street, Chicago, will furnish full information to any one who will apply to him. Go, if you possibly can, it will bring you tenfold. The social feature alone is worth the trip. There will be gathered at Chicago during those days most of the leading musicians and teachers in the land. Such a brilliant company of artists was never heard before on any one occasion. The American College of Musicians will hold its annual examination in Chicago at that time. It will attract also a large number of teachers who go for the special purpose of trying for one of the degrees of that institution. A full report of the meeting will be found in THE ETUDE. We may hold the July issue in order to give our readers the news in that issue.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

THE OAKLAND COLLECTION OF ANTHEMS. S. R. MITCHELL & CO., Chicago, Ills.

Perhaps this new volume might be more appropriately styled "H. W. Fairbank's Contribution to Church Music," inasmuch as 37 out of the 46 numbers contained in it are his own compositions. The only other name that occurs more than once is that of E. O. Everett—a name familiar to all who have kept pace with the most recent developments in the field of Sunday-school music. Mr. Fairbank is a composer of about the same grade as W. F. Sudda, whose two volumes of Anthems have had such a widespread popularity. These anthems are very simple and within the reach of ordinary village choirs. Their simplicity would be a great merit if they had more musical merit. Some are very little, if anything, in advance of the tunes of the McGrannahan type. If untrained choirs will insist upon the right to sing "voluntaries," however, in spite of their incapacity, by all means let them sing just such anthems as these. Many choirs make the great blunder of trying to render the anthems of Purcell, Prout and others of that class without careful study and intelligent leadership. "The Oakland Collection" has the kind of ring that will doubtless make it a popular book. Let us hope it may do good.

Why the tenor part should have been written above the alto in duets and below it in quartettes is a puzzling question. Why not in all cases write the tenor where it belongs—Beneath the alto and the bass?

"A PRACTICAL SYSTEM of Tangible Musical Notation and Point Writing and Printing. For the Use of the Blind." By Wm. B. Watt, Sup't. New York Institution for the Blind." Published by the BRADSTREET PRESS, 279 Broadway, New York.

This system was first published in 1872, and since that time has been severely tested. In 1882 the second edition was issued, with many important corrections and changes.

In his preface the author says: "The system is designed for use in schools, and to enable the blind at their homes to learn how to write music in tangible form, and also to utilize the music which has been, or shall hereafter be published, in this system."

It is an ingenious system and is doubtless quite practicable. To one who can see the plan is simple enough to comprehend at a single reading.

To Doubtless a blind person will learn to use the method, relying upon his touch even more readily than one who should depend upon a sight. Surely it is a great boon to the blind to possess a system by which they may read music for themselves.

"PRACTICAL HARMONY." By Dr. F. L. RITTER.

Dr. Ritter's remarkable position as a musician of fine condition and marked talents renders it entirely unnecessary for us to question for a moment his fitness for the authorship of a work on Harmony, and his extended and successful experience as an instructor at Vassar College almost precludes any question as to the practical utility of the work. All of the books that have emanated from Dr. Ritter's pen have been stamped by their adaptability to instructive use, and this work on harmony can be seen to bear upon every page a similar trade mark.

The scheme comprehended in the simple and logical evolution of harmony from the primary triads to suspensions and form of simple song is clear, concise and very easily followed and understood by the most obtuse pupil. The plan of giving the melody with a figured bass,

leaving the pupil to supply the intermediate voices, is an excellent one. While the supplementary exercises of Richter present such abstruse complications of modulation, which render it of little use to a student for self-instruction, this treatise of Dr. Ritter presents the same scheme in a way so practical and easily understood that it can be used by teacher or self-student as a complement to any good text-book on harmony; in fact, it is one of the best text-books itself. We commend the book, for its many practical merits will be obvious upon even a casual examination.

W. G. S.

BOOK OF INTERLUDES. By H. R. Palmer. Pub-

lished by H. R. Palmer, New York.

This book contains much valuable material for organists. The interludes are short and far removed from the commonplace. Every one shows some originality. We had the pleasure of hearing Dr. Palmer play a number of them from manuscript, and were struck with their beauty and originality. The material is systematically arranged into major and minor keys and the different time signatures. There are also added formulas for modulation and examples illustrating the same. There are in all 816 different numbers in the book. If an organist, who is capable of playing off-hand an appropriate interlude, will play this book through, he will vastly widen his resources and greatly improve his style, while those who lack the inventive faculty will find the book a veritable boon.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Martha's Vineyard Summer Institute begins its eleventh annual session, July 18th. There is no finer summer music school in the country than that connected with this Institute.

Mr. Chas. E. Tinney, recently from St. Paul's Cathedral, and the Guildhall School of Music, London, Eng., and now of the New England Conservatory of Music, of Boston, Mass., will have charge of the Department of Vocal Music in the Martha's Vineyard Summer Institute. He is a thorough, earnest and skillful teacher, and a fine singer. His public appearances in Boston have gained him an excellent reputation.

The Department of Piano and Harmony in the Martha's Vineyard Summer Institute will be in charge of Mr. Geo. H. Howard the coming summer, as for several years past. He is a teacher of established reputation, and has had excellent success as a teacher in both branches. He is well known to readers of THE ETUDE as the author of the "Country Harmony," a large portion of which has been published in monthly parts.

A finer opportunity for study in the summer than that afforded by the Martha's Vineyard Summer Institute can scarcely be found. See Advertisement.

At Dixon, Ill., will be held a Normal Musical Institute, July 30th. The course will consist of W. S. Straub, principal; W. F. Werckshul, T. Martin Towne, Arthur M. Straub and S. W. Straub. This is the fifth annual session of this summer school. Good work has been done by this school, and the promise is for even better in the future. See advertisement else where in this issue.

Dr. EUGENE THAYER will be in Burlington in July with Mr. Sherwood. Music students will find this a lovely place to spend their vacation. Dr. Thayer will teach his specialties of Harmony, Composition and Organ.

A YOUNG lady of five years of successful experience in teaching instrumental and vocal music, at present a pupil of Moszkowski, in Berlin, desires to make an engagement for September. Information and references given at this office.

A. D. TURNER.

We are grieved to convey the sorrowful intelligence of the death of A. D. Turner, which occurred at his home in Auburn, Me., May 6th. For a number of years Mr. Turner had been troubled with an abscess in his side, which necessitated a dangerous operation. We received several letters from him during his illness, which were uniformly cheerful and hopeful. His death was unexpected to his friends and the musical profession. Mr. Turner was well known to the readers of THE ETUDE through his articles and compositions. While he was useful in his day and generation he was full of great promise. He was at all times full of enthusiasm for all things relating to teaching and playing of the piano. As a teacher in the New England Conservatory of Music he was among the most sought for, and produced some of the best pianists that ever left that institution.

His compositions are quite numerous and mostly for the piano and in the form of études. His octave studies are more generally used than any other, except, perhaps, those of Kullak. He also composed for violin and piano, and cello and piano, and a piano quintet. The musical profession loses one of its staunch members in the death of Mr. Turner. He leaves a large circle of friends to mourn his loss.

Questions and Answers.

Please write me if, in the piano solo, "L'Africaine," (Meyerbeer), by Franz Bondel, on page 12, where the melody is embellished with a filegret work, in groups of six notes, the melody notes that are tied in the groups of three notes are to be played, or not struck again.—E. A.

They are struck. The curved line is a part of the triplet, and is no tie. In correct engraving of music the 3 denoting a triplet is distinguished from the 8 denoting the finger mark by the former being printed obliquely—thus 3, while the finger mark is perpendicular—thus 8. In the Riemann system of indicating these marks doubts of the kind you mention are impossible. The curved line is also used for two other purposes, namely, for legato mark and a phrase. These diverse uses of the same sign causes constant doubt and annoyance.

Would like your advice through THE ÉTUDE, concerning two young ladies who have studied with other teachers before coming to me. The first executes well, but is very slow at reading at sight. Cannot read a simple piece without stumbling—in fact, has to memorize everything before playing. I do not object to her learning her pieces from memory, but would like to help her to read faster. Number 2, when running arpeggios, closes her hand when striking the last note.—E. A.

You are very fortunate if, as your words imply, you never have bad habits to contend with in pupils unless they come to you from other teachers. To improve the reading at sight, have the pupil practice in four-hand pieces, or, better still, if practicable, in eight-hand pieces, reading at sight. At first the selections should be easy; later they should be more difficult. A couple of hours spent in this way every week for some time, will improve the sense of obligation in respect to keeping the time. The stumbling you complain of is due to imperfect comprehension of what is wanted to be played, and in part to the imperfect sense of rhythm. In cases where it is impossible to put two pupils together for this kind of practice, play easy four-hand pieces with her yourself, a certain length of time each week. In short, the "indication," as the doctors say, is to put her, for a part of her practice, under conditions where keeping time takes precedence of everything else. This is never the case in solo playing, unless it be done by a metronome; in case none of the previous courses are practicable, try this. Metronome practice half an hour a day for two months, at first on easy pieces, reading them at sight, and afterwards progressively more difficult.

2. The shutting the hand after arpeggio runs is by no means the worst thing a pupil can do. If the hand is raised pretty high from the keyboard, by a rebound from the wrist, after the last note is played, or rather when the last note is being played, no especial harm is involved in closing the hand. If you think there is, why persist in telling her not to do it. When you have told her about ten million times she will gradually cease to shut it so much, and in time it will yield to kindness and firmness, combined with persistence. Some readers may suppose that there is an exaggeration involved in the expression ten millions. There is not; this is by actual count, I am assured by one of the best teachers, the number of times telling that is indispensable to making an impression upon the average hard case of a pupil.

I am a teacher of music, and I have a scholar who plays music in the fourth and fifth grades, but she objects to classical music because it is "dull." Would you please name a few bright pieces in Mozart, Mendelssohn, Beethoven, Bach and Chopin, or pieces by any other good composers, which you think would be likely to interest her in a better class of music?

2. What system of technique would you advise for scholars in the fourth or fifth grades? Name also a good work on finger gymnastics for scholars from first grade to fourth.

3. What work would you recommend for strengthening and cultivating the voice, to one who understands something of voice training, and wishes to proceed without the aid of a teacher?

4. Can you give me names of one or two prominent teachers of vocal music in public schools?

M. A. K.

1. If you will tell me what ordinary pieces the pupil likes best, I can probably hit upon something which she would like in spite of its being classical. I will name the following at a venture. Of Mozart, the Sonata in G, No. 14, Peters' edition, and that in F, No. 6, Peters' edition. I refer particularly to the first movements. The second movements also are good; the third movements of both sonatas are weaker, and really not worth playing. Of Mendelssohn, the People's Songs, in the "Songs without Words," No. 4 and No. 9; the Hunting Song, No. 3; the Duet, No. 18, and the Spring Song, No. 30. These are all pretty, and the pupil who does not like any one of them or all of them, upon hearing them played a few times, has very little music in her. Of Beethoven, the Minuet in the sonata in opus 49, the air and variations in the Sonata in A flat, opus 26, and the slow movement in Sonata Pathétique. Of Bach, the Loure in G, arranged by Heinze, in the Peters edition, Bach Album.

2. I do not think that Mason's Techniques are ever outgrown. I do not see but what the system contains all that a pupil needs of exercises, as such. There are many techniques before the public, but they are mostly composed of changes on the five-finger idea, a few scales, and broken chords, developed with very little intelligence. I honestly think Mason's is, in every respect, preferable to any other. There are good exercises in all books that I have ever seen, but the trouble is they do not do the interior things which belong to technic quite as certainly as moving the fingers. Perhaps Howe's Preparation System," published by Mr. Presser, is what you want.

3. I do not think that any book can be named for the purpose. There are many sets of vocal exercises, which will benefit the voice practicing them assiduously and judiciously, but I don't feel confidence in recommending a book. It all depends upon how you do the practice. The same set of exercises might be ruinous if practiced in one way, or beneficial in the highest degree if practiced in another.

4. One of the best teachers of music in the public schools that I have ever known anything about is Mr. William L. Tomlins, Central Music Hall, Chicago. Another is Mr. J. A. Butterfield, care of E. G. Newell & Co., Chicago. Mr. Holt, of Boston, has a high reputation. So also has Mr. W. F. Heath, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Mr. N. Cee Stewart, of Cleveland.

1. Please give, in the next number of THE ÉTUDE some directions for the use of the soft pedal; the words una corda being written without pedal marks in some pieces, while in others, as in "Mills' Recollections of Home," the words una corda and the pedal marks are written. Are the loud and soft pedals both to be used at the same time, or do the pedal marks refer to the soft pedal?

2. Frequently the words una corda are written without the subsequent *tutta corda*; in such an instance, when should the use of the soft pedal be discontinued?

3. Is the use of the soft pedal governed by changes in the harmony, as is the loud pedal? and when the "una corda" are written without pedal marks, must the use of the pedal be discontinued at every change of harmony?

1. Upon the upright pianos nowadays the soft pedal brings the hammers nearer the strings, whereby they strike with less force. No change takes place in the quality of the tone. This form of pedal is to be used whenever you want the music softer than you can make it without the soft pedal. Upon most grand pianos the soft pedal changes the action toward one side, so that each hammer, instead of hitting three wires, as in the ordinary unisons, strikes only two, and those upon a different part of the covering of the hammer. Hence, besides being of less volume, by so much as two wires make less vibration than three, the tone is softer, or more delicate in quality. You are to use this at any time whatever, when you think the effect will be better. Press the soft pedal with the left foot and keep it down until the need of the effect is passed. Meanwhile you go on with the other pedal exactly the same as if you were not using the soft pedal at all.

2. Discontinue the soft pedal, whether marked or not, when the sense requires the soft effect to be discontinued.

3. The use of the soft pedal is not governed in the least by the changes of harmony. All pedal marks are approximate and suggestive, merely. The vibratory power of

the piano are so much better now than they were formerly, that the damper pedal has to be used much more discriminatingly than any edition is able to mark it. This is also true of the soft pedal, which is often to be used where no mark appears. The so-called marks of expression are only suggestions; you are expected to add many more. Listen to a good reader, and consider how great is the variety of accents and emphases he uses to bring out the meaning of the author. In music these degrees of shading are far more delicate, and extend over a wider range of expression. *Feel* the music, and *play accordingly*. The author's marks are merely suggestive, and intended to help you to the right conception more quickly than you would otherwise get there.

Ques.—Will you please inform me, through the "Questions and Answers," whether the Tempo in Raff's Lourley should be the same throughout the piece?

2. What is the correct pronunciation of pianist?

Ans.—Yes.

2. The i has the sound of i in *pian*, and a the same as all, thus: *pe-a-nist*, with accent on second syllable.

Ques.—Please tell me why in the 30th measure of "Come back to Erin" (Vocal), by Claribel, a measure of $\frac{3}{4}$ instead of $\frac{4}{4}$ time is given. I have examined three or four copies of different editions, but all are alike, an answer in the Eruds will greatly oblige. A Teacher.

Ans.—The edition on our shelf has the 30 measure in $\frac{3}{4}$ time. In one of our bound volumes we have this measure written in $\frac{4}{4}$ time. It is doubtless done to give emphasis to words. The same ending as at measure 12 could be used, but the effect of joyfulness is heightened by the accent given in $\frac{3}{4}$ time, or, at least, it is better indicated.

Ques.—Would you please tell me through the Eruds what the metronome marks would be for Weber's L'Invitation à la Valse? I especially wish to know if the Allegro Vivace should be played through in the same tempo, or whether part of it should be in regular waltz tempo, and the passages of runs and scales faster? By answering this you will greatly oblige a young subscriber.

L. P.

Ans.—You had better procure a copy of the Cotta edition, which is revised by Liszt. The change of tempos are all indicated in that edition.

Ques.—In your graded list of piano music in the issue for April, under the head of finishing studies *classical*, you mention Haydn—No. 4, D dur, Sonata, etc. I have 148 Peters' Ed. comprising some or all of that composer's sonatas (I don't know which). No. 4 in my volume is in *G moll*. There are two in *D dur*, etc. Please inform me what ones in my list correspond to the ones you mention?

Ans.—The numbers in the list of THE ÉTUDE referred to the Cotta Edition. No. 4, corresponds to No. 7 of Peters' Edition.

Ques.—What is meant by the Cecilia method of teaching the 2nd year there any reason given in harmony, why the dominant is called dominant, and the fifth perfect?

Ans.—We only know of the Cecilia edition of textbooks, and from the advertisement would naturally infer that it is a method of teaching. The series is largely used among teachers in the smaller towns.

2. The chord of the fifth of the scale is called the dominant, because it is the governing chord of the key; i.e., it implies the tonic into which it naturally resolves.

The term "perfect" is used by some writers to characterize it a prime, fourth, fifth and octave in the scale, because when inverted they do not change their character as do the rest. This is to distinguish them from major, which always change into minor when inverted.

Ques.—Will you kindly answer the following in THE ÉTUDE? How should notes be played when written thus:

$\text{F} \#$ and thus: $\text{F} \#$ and thus: $\text{F} \#$ N. A. P.

Ans.—The notes written thus: $\text{F} \#$ and thus: $\text{F} \#$ are neither legato nor staccato. They are to be played as near together as possible without being legato, and with a certain weight of touch. They are generally played with the forearm.

Ques.—In Op. 10 No. 2, Moszkowski, why those rests in the eighth measure? It seems to me the voices are all represented without them.—A. D. W.

Ans.—There can be no reason for those rests except that the last note in the measure (B) is concealed as a new voice coming in. At least one edition of this piece omits the rests.

THE examinations of American College of Musicians will be held in Chicago, Monday and Tuesday, July 2d and 3d, full particulars of which can be obtained from the secretary, Robert Bonner, 60 Wilshire St., Providence, R. I. All applications are to be made out on blanks (to be had of the secretary) and filed with the secretary at least two weeks prior to the examination.

MUSICAL ITEMS.

[All matter intended for this Department should be addressed to Mrs. Helen D. Trether, Box 2290, New York City.]

HOME.

MISS MAUD POWELL will appear at the concerts of the M. T. N. A. on July 4th.

T. VON WESTENHAGEN, of Philadelphia, will attend the Bayreuth music festival this summer.

BENSON, the Patti ticket swindler, of Mexican fame, committed suicide in Ludlow St. Jail, New York.

MR. J. H. HANN, director of the Detroit Conservatory of Music, is giving a series of "American Composers' Concerts."

The Petersburg, Va., fifth annual music festival was held during the second week of May. Mr. Carl Zerrahn was the conductor.

MME. FANNY BLOOMFIELD, will go abroad soon and play in the principal European cities. Mr. L. W. Rubin is her manager.

AGNES HUNTINGTON, the contralto, will retire from the "Bostonians" at the season's close. She will spend the summer abroad.

"THE LIGHT OF ASIA," Dudley Buck, was given by the Newark Harmonic Society, E. M. Bowman, conductor, on May 8th.

LOUIS MOREAU GOTTSCHALK's birthday anniversary was celebrated at Boston on May 8th by a concert given by Mr. Frank Gilder.

A SYMPHONY, by Mr. H. W. Nicholl, the American composer, is soon to be performed at the Leipzig Gewandhaus, under Dr. Reinecke's direction.

MR. CALIXA LAVALIÈRE, of Boston, gave two concerts at Montreal, Canada, on May 18th and 19th. Miss Muide Nicholls and Wolf Tries, cellist, assisted.

A SCANDINAVIAN Music Festival will be given at Minneapolis on June 6th. A number of local artists, Danz's orchestra and Miss Christine Neilson, of Chicago, will participate.

The Russian National Opera Company, soon to visit Berlin, expects also to come to the United States in time. Its members have been chosen from the court theatres of St. Petersburg and Moscow.

MISS NELLIE STRONG, pianist, assisted by a number of her pupils, Miss Maud Powell and Mrs. M. Hardy, gave a concert in St. Louis, on May 1st. Miss Strong played Andante Spianato and Polonaise, Chopin.

The Brooklyn Choral Society, Mr. Dudley Buck conductor, gave Schumann's "Gypsy Life," "Song of the Vikings," Eaton Fanfug; "Hymns to Music," Dudley Buck, and other selections, at its third concert. Mrs. Carrie Hu King and Adolf Hartdegen were among the soloists.

MR. WM. H. SHERWOOD, on a tour through the South, gave a piano recital at Hollins' Institute in Virginia. This is one of the oldest female colleges in the United States, just closing its forty-fifth session. One of the most enjoyable numbers on the programme was an American composition, Loreley, by Perry.

MRS. MATHILDE OSTRANDER, principal of the vocal department of the Denver (Colo.) University of Music, gave three successful classical recitals, assisted by O. W. G. Fefferkorn, principal of the instrumental department. Mrs. Ostrander was the leading contralto of Minnie Hauk's Opera Company in 1886, and was then Miss Mellenbach.

The American Conservatory of Music, Chicago, gave its third concert on May 15th. The Beethoven String Quartette, assisted by Mr. August Spanuth, pianist, and Frank W. Ambler, tenor, were the performers. A concerto in E flat, by Spanuth, figured on the programme. Also works by F. Grant Gleason and W. Ed. Kennendahl, of Baltimore.

JOSEPH CHAPEK, the Bohemian violinist, is active in the promotion of musical affairs at Little Rock, Arkansas. A series of chamber music recitals has been given under his direction during the past winter, and a complimentary concert was tendered him on April 30th, at which he played, among other selections, Alane's Second Symphonie Concertante with Mr. Kovarik.

MR. WM. H. SHERWOOD, gave three recitals at Pittsburgh, Pa. Among the American composers represented was Mr. H. W. Nicholl, of New York, in a piano concerto in D minor, and several smaller piano works, besides a number of vocal compositions. Arthur Foote, Wilson G. Smith, Carl Retter, Ad. M. Foerster, Goldbeck and WM. H. Sherwood were also on the programme.

MISS LUCIE E. MAWSON, a former pupil of Albert Parsons, and more recently of Oscar Raff, Berlin, with whom she studied four years, gave a concert in New York with pleasing success. Her programme contained works by Beethoven and Bach, a charming Capriccio in B minor, Brahms; "Romance," Schumann; "Barcarolle," Rubinstein, and other selections by Chopin and Liszt.

CONSTANTIN STEINBERG's Wagner Festival in Atlanta, Georgia, was held on May 24th and 25th. Mrs. Sternberg, contralto, took a prominent part. Mrs. Summer Salier and Mrs. Anna Senior Werner sang the soprano parts.

The last concert of the season by the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Mr. Wm. Gericke, conductor, produced a Bayreuth programme, Leonore's overture No. 3 was followed by a number of vocal selections from "Fidelio," Mme. Kalisch and Emil Fischer, and Mme. Kalisch-Schumann, and the Ninth Symphony closed the concert.

At the Buffalo Jane Music Festival Theo Thomas' orchestra, a chorus of 600 voices and the following soloists will take part: Mme. Lea Lehmann, Kalisch and Ruth Bartholomew. The chief works to be given are: Berlioz's "Damnation of Faust," selections from "Tristan," "Lohengrin," "Die Walkure," "Die Meistersinger," and the Tannhauser Overture.

THE Cincinnati May Festival, Theo. Thomas conductor, opened on May 22d with Hymn, op. 36 Weber, Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, Eine Freude Overture, Wagner, and Paine's Cantata, "Song of Prairie." On the second day, Mendelssohn's "Song of Part" was sung. At the tenth concert, "Spectre's Bride," Dvorak, and Goldmark's "Symphony 'Landliche Hochzeit'" formed the programme. The last concert was a Wagner night.

A "NEW AMERICAN Opera Company" has been organized by Gustav Hinrichs, who will be its conductor. Among the members are Misses Walker and Poole, and Messrs. Bassett, Vetus and Stoddard, formerly of the National Opera Company (now disbanded), and Louisa Natali, Lizzie Maenich and Anita Verdeno, Castle, Wm. Lee and Mr. Knight. Many of the retained. The orchestra and ballet personnel have been retained. The repertory will be of lighter character, and for the coming winter will include Bizet's "Pearl Fishers," Neesler's "Trumpeter of Sackingen" and Weber's "Sylvana." A summer season was opened in Philadelphia on May 28th with "Martha."

FOREIGN.

GRÜNFELD, the Viennese pianist, is winning renown in Paris.

BUENOS AIRES is to have a National Conservatory of Music.

MME. ALBANI contemplates a visit to America next winter.

THE tenor Winkelmann has been singing "Othello" in Vienna.

ANTON SCHOTT's death is announced. He died of pneumonia.

CIRO PINSENTI, the composer who died recently, left quite a fortune.

ADOLF JENSEN, the popular song-writer, has left an opera, "Turandot."

MME. NORDICA (Lillian Norton) is singing with much success in London, Eng.

ROSSINI'S "Stabat Mater" will be given in Paris, it is said, with costumes and scenery.

THE pianist Silioti has been appointed a professor of the Moscow Conservatory of Music.

EDWARD GRIGO appeared at a recent London philharmonic concert, playing his own concerto.

THE Swedish singer Mlle Sigrid Arnaldson is winning triumphs at the theatre Argentino, Rome.

MME. PATTI and Stagno enjoyed a great success at Buenos Ayres for their singing in "Il Barbiere."

SOPHIA MENTER, the distinguished pianist, is announced for two London recitals on May 23rd and June 14th.

THE millionaire, composer and Baron Franchetti has just been decorated with the order of the Italian Crown.

FERNAND GUMBERT, the popular song composer, is now seventy years of age, hale and hearty in mind and body.

CARL ROSA is organizing a second operatic troupe, designed for the performance of light opera of the opera comique class.

A NEW opera by Tchaikowsky, will be produced at St. Petersburg next winter. It is entitled "The Captain's Daughter."

It is rumored that the veteran tenor Tammerlik will visit London this summer. He is sixty-eight years old and has recently sung in Paris.

A YOUNG prodigy, four and a half years old, is Leopold Spielberg, of Vienna, who plays Bach's fugues and Beethoven's "Waldstein" sonatas.

YOUNG OTTO HEWNER, the pianistic prodigy who is delighting and astonishing London at present, will appear in New York during the season of 1889-1890.

The Bayreuth performances this summer begin on July 22d and close on August 19th. "Parsifal" will be performed nine times, and "Die Meistersinger" eight times.

THE singers of the Sextine Chapel, Rome, gave three concerts in Paris during May, at which they performed works by Palestrina, Marcello, Allegri and other old masters.

MME. JEANNE DONSTÉ has been delighting musical Dublin with the playing of Bach's Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue, with Etudes, by Chopin, "Romanza," Rubinsteini, and "Caprice Espagnol," Moszkowski.

A CONCERT was recently given at Antwerp, the programme of which was made up entirely of compositions by Mme. Cécile Chaminade who, it is said, possesses genuine talent. This lady is a sister of Mme. Moritz Moszkowski.

HISTORICAL PIANOFORTE RECITALS.

HELEN A. CLARK.

The Historical Pianoforte Recitals of Chas. H. Jarvis and Dr. Hugo Clark closed on Wednesday, April 25th, with a brilliant programme, and we are sure that no one who attended the series could help feeling that they understood better than ever before the various stages in the development of the art of pianoforte music.

In the historical portion of the programmes, which was devoted to the Italian and German schools, with an occasional contribution from England, was shown the gradual evolving of that most perfect form, the sonata, which in the hands of Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, reached its highest point.

In these concerts we have not only been treated to much of the best music by the greatest composers, but we have heard for the first time a great deal of beautiful music by composers who do not deserve the oblivion into which they have fallen. On the whole, the concerts, besides being instructive, were thoroughly enjoyable from the artistic point of view, and it is to be regretted that more people do not avail themselves of such an opportunity for musical culture.

True, we had two series of symphony concerts this winter, which were well attended, and musical parties have been the fashionable fad; but does this mean much? Our attention is confined principally to such momentous questions as whether Miss W. plays better than Miss J., or Mr. B. better than Mr. G., and in the settle ment of these interesting problems we entirely forget the music. We shall never have any true musical culture until music is regarded from a more eminent standpoint, until men realize that music is as important a factor in the history of thought as poetry, art, or science. In the music of a nation we find as clearly mirrored its intellectual growth as in its literature. Until, then, music enters into our lives as a means to develop our intellects, not merely as a means to pass away a few idle hours; until no man who calls himself cultivated shall dare to say he knows nothing of Beethoven, any more than he would now dare to say he knows nothing of Shakespeare or Michael Angelo, we cannot hope to have true musical culture. We should like all conductors of music to be animated by the same spirit—conductus of music to be animated by the same spirit—conductus.

"Margret! Margret! Sicut erat et est!"

I have been calling to me and I come!

Of old I did but know thy outer form,

And dreamed not of the spirit hid within—

Thou art my love, thou art my life,

And will not rest—until I win my doubt—

Till I have seen thee plainly with mine eyes,

And palpably have touched thee with my hand;

Then shall I know thee, raised to life for me,

For what thou truly art."

Though not musical, the following wholesome advice seems to be directed to the musical profession:—

Don't worry.

Don't hurry. "Too swift arrives as tardy as too slow."

"Simplify! simplify! simplify!"

Don't over-eat. Don't starve. "Let your moderation be known to all men."

Court the fresh air day and night. "Oh, if you knew what was in the air!"

Sleep and rest abundantly. Sleep is Nature's benediction.

Save less nervous energy each day than you make.

Be cheerful. "A light heart liveth long."

Think only healthful thoughts. "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he."

"Seek peace and pursue it."

"Work like a man, but don't be worked to death."

Avoid passion and excitement. A moment's anger may be fatal.

Associate with healthy people. Health is contagious as well as disease.

Don't carry the whole world on your shoulders, far less the universe. Trust the Eternal.

Never despair. "Lost hope is a fatal disease."

"If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

THE STUDY OF THE PIANO.

STUDENTS' MANUAL.
PRACTICAL COUNSELS.

By H. PARENT.

(Translated from the French by M. A. Bierstadt.)

75. How ought the diatonic scales in sixths to be fingered?

The scales in connected sixths should be fingered either by

4 5 4 5
1 1 1 1

or by :

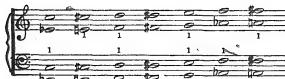
3 4 5
1 1 1

following the natural extensions of the hand.

In the left hand the same fingering is inverted. The scales in detached sixths are fingered with \natural if the upper note is a white key; with \flat or \sharp if the upper note is a black key.

The chromatic scales in sixths require the use of the thumb and the fifth finger several times in succession. The thumb is placed on all the lower white keys in the right hand, and on all the upper white keys in the left hand.

Example :-



76. How should held notes be practised, with special regard to the independence of the fingers?

The fewer held notes there are, the less difficult is the exercise; commence, then, by holding one note, then successively two, three and four. These exercises should first be applied to the forms known as five-finger exercises. They should be practised in all keys, in contrary and right movements. They may be applied to the perfect chords, to chords of the seventh and the dominants, and to those of the diminished seventh.*

These formulæ enter into the series of exercises in extension, already studied under another head.

77. What are the difficult arpeggios that should be studied in exercises?

The arpeggios in perfect chords (composed of three notes) should be practised; those in chords of the dominant seventh (composed of four notes), and those in chords of the diminished seventh (likewise composed of four notes).

78. How must the arpeggios in the perfect chords be practised?

The arpeggios in perfect chords must be studied in all keys and in all positions, slowly and heavily, with a double purpose in view: the equality of the fingers and the passage of the thumb. For this last an exercise may be made composed of three notes: the note on which the thumb rests, the one preceding it, and the one following.

The exercise should be practised ascending and descending with each hand.

Like the scales, it will be found useful to practise them at first with the left-hand alone, running the arpeggio through two octaves, accenting every two notes, through three octaves

accenting every three notes, and through four octaves accenting every four notes. This last combination is the best, because the accent falls sometimes on one finger and sometimes on another.

It should be well understood that the arpeggios are to be practised as gymnastics for the fingers only when the notes and fingering are thoroughly learned.

79. If a pupil has no knowledge of harmony how will he find the different arpeggios in the perfect chords?

If a pupil has no knowledge of harmony he will find the perfect chords and their inversions by the degrees of the scale.

To form a perfect major chord on the tonic of any major scale, and a perfect minor chord on the tonic of any minor scale, it is enough to take—

the first degree (tonic),
the third degree (median),
the fifth degree (dominant),

with the changes that are in the clef in the key that is given.

To obtain the first inversion of the perfect chord commence the arpeggio with the median, the second note of the chord not inverted.

To obtain the second inversion, commence the arpeggio with the dominant, the third and last note of the perfect chord not inverted.

Examples in D major:-

Perfect chord not inverted: d, f \sharp , a, d, etc.

First inversion: f \sharp , d, f \sharp , a, etc.

Second inversion: a, d, f \sharp , a, etc.

80. How are the arpeggios in the perfect chords to be fingered, and how can the fingering of the seventy-two arpeggios comprised in all the major and minor keys be retained?

The arpeggios in the perfect chords may be fingered according to the rules for the extension of the fingers and the passing under of the thumb (see Nos. 38 and 39). These fingerings ought to be retained by reasoning, as those for the scales are done.

In the arpeggios composed of three notes, one finger always rests unemployed* (the 3d or 4th). To define, then, the fingering of an arpeggio, it is necessary to indicate—

1st. The position of the thumb.

2d. The position of the unemployed finger. (See appendices, the table-guide to the memory, which will aid in practising when the notes and fingering are not perfectly understood.)

Before commencing the arpeggios the student would do well to learn the perfect chords that are given, and then practise them as arpeggios through one octave. This preliminary study will greatly simplify the arpeggios properly so called. It would also be useful to practise these arpeggios in contrary movement, and to make the three positions succeed one another, inverted in the two hands.

Examples:-



* One, and not two, because the fifth finger has no place proper to it, and only takes the place of the thumb to begin or to end, as in the scales.

The conformation of the hands with the thumbs inside makes the two corresponding positions (1st and 3d, 3d and 1st, 2d and 2d) equivalent to one another in the intervals, and consequently in the fingering.*

81. How are the perfect chords given with the double bass to be fingered?

The thumb and fifth finger must be placed at the two extremities of the chord (with both hands).

The free finger is found in the right hand—in the upper part of the chord in the first position, in the middle of the chord in the second and third positions. In the left hand the free finger is in the lower part of the chord in the third position; in the middle of the chord in the second and first positions.

This rule is not absolute in the chords of d and b (1st position in the left hand) and in those of c minor and e flat minor (3d position in the right hand), when either the third or fourth finger may be used, according to the conformation of the hand.

82. How should the arpeggios in chords of the dominant seventh be practised?

Like the arpeggios in perfect chords, in all keys and all positions, slowly and heavily, but accenting particularly every three notes, so that the accent may not always occur on the same finger (above all, if this be the thumb). This accent will give an arpeggio of three octaves.

Those arpeggios that begin in a weak finger should be accented every four notes.

The student will obtain the different chords of the dominant seventh and their inversion from the degrees of the scale.

The chord of the dominant seventh comes on the fifth degree of the scale (dominant) and is composed of the third (leading note), the fifth (super-tonic) and the seventh (sub-dominant), with the clef changes in the key given. In other words, four notes at intervals of a third, with the dominant for the base.

The chord of the dominant seventh is the same in the two forms.

Example:-

In C major:

g, b, d, f .

In C minor:

$g, b\sharp, d, f$.

The inversions of this chord are obtained in the same way as those of the perfect chord, commencing the arpeggios successively with the second, the third and the fourth note of the chord.

Example:-

g, b, d, f .

b, d, f, g .

d, f, g, b .

f, g, b, d .

83. How are the arpeggios in chords of the dominant seventh fingered?

In the arpeggios composed of four notes, all the fingers are employed, consequently there is only occasion to point out the position of the thumb. The rule is the same as for the arpeggios in the perfect chords.

(For the application, see table for arpeggios in chords of the dominant seventh, No. 3, in the appendices.)

* The thirds, moreover, correspond in an inverted sense, the major third in one hand being the minor third in the other, and vice versa.

* See in No. 79 how to find these deficient chords on the keyboard.

CONCERT PROGRAMMES.

J. A. Carson, Greenfield, Illinois.

Valse in E flat, Durand; "Home, Sweet Home," Idylle, Nocturne, Goldbeck; Tarentelle, Heller; Sadness of Soul, Mendelssohn; The Sylphs, Bachman; Norwegian Dance, Caprice, Grieg; Mountain Flower, Leeschhorn; Valse in G flat, Chopin; Charge of the Hussars, Spindler; Greeting to Spring, Kroeger.

Helmuth College, London, Ont., Thomas Martin Mu-

stical Director.

Grand Concerto, E flat Major, Beethoven; "Lost Hopes," Thomas Martin; "I Love Thee," Grieg; Blinde (F Major), Mendelssohn; Berceuse, Delibes; Ballade (C minor), Polonaise (G sharp minor); "Impromptu," on a theme from Schumann's "Manfred," Carl Reinecke; "The Magic Song," Marguerite, Meyer-Hellmuth; Prelude and Fugue (D major), Bach; Berceuse, Humoreske, Grieg; Novelllette (D major), Schumann; Isolde's Liebestod, Wagner-Liszt; Rhapsody Hongrois, No. XIII, Liszt.

Philadelphia Academy of Music, Compositions for two Pianos, Maurits Leefson and Richard Zeckser.

Sonata, D major, Mozart; Homage à Haendel, Op. 92; Moschelles; Improvisata on Gluck's Favotte, Op. 125; Reinecke; Duo, Op. 15, Rheinberger; Tarantelle, Op. 6, Brussel; Luetzw's Wilde Jagd, Op. 108, Hiller.

Miss Nellie Strong, St. Louis, Mo.

Quartet, Chromatic Galop, Liszt; Mazurka, B flat major, Godard; Nocturne, A major, Leschetizky; Waltz, Op. 3, No. 2, Nicodé; Contralto Solo, "Figlio Mio" (Prophet), Meyerbeer; Tarantelle, Op. 27, No. 2, Moszkowski; Violin Solo, "Fantasie de Faust," Sarasate; Rondo Capriccioso, Mendelssohn; Contralto Solo, "Happy Day," Goetz; Capriccietto, D minor, Ph. Schärwenka; Romance, Op. 15, No. 2, Arthur Foote; Magic Fire Music (Walküre), Wagner-Brassini; Violin Solo, Nocturne, E flat major, Chopin; Mazurka, Wieniawski; Andante Spianato and Grand Polonaise, Op. 22, Chopin.

Miss Elizabeth Westgate, San Francisco, Cal.

Overture, Caliph of Bagdad (2 pianos, 8 hands) Boieldieu; Violin Solo, Fantasie, De Beriot; Nocturne in D, Leybach; Scotch Melody, Benedict; Tarantelle, Moelling; Bluettes, Behr; Song, "The Grave on the Heath," Heiser; Spinning Song, Mendelssohn; Allegro from Trio in F, Haydn; Sonatas, No. 3 (2 pianos 4 hands), Mozart; With Second Piano Part, Grieg; Violin Solo, Mazurka, Wieniawski; Bagatelle, Beethoven; The Two Shaksas, Kolling; Song Without Words, Zatnick; The Little Girl Smith, Longfellow's "Lorekun"; Wagner-Romance, Bartholdi; The Foundling, Lyberg; Priests' March from Athalia (2 pianos, 8 hands and violin), Mendelssohn.

The Brooklyn College Musical Recital Course, Miss Fannie Mansfield, President; John Beck Violinist; Wilson G. Smith Accompanist.

Andante, Intermezzo, from suite for Violin and Piano, Ries; Toccata and Fugue, Bach-Tausig; Pastorale; Scarlatti-Tausig; Impromptu, with variations, Schubert; Pasquinate, Gottschalk; Fantasie Caprice, for Violin and Piano, Vieuxtemps; Andante Spianato and Polonaise, Op. 22, Chopin; Romanza for Violin and Piano, Ad. M. Foerster; Valse, Alard; Scherzo, Mendelssohn; Nocturne (Love-Dream), Liszt; Rhapsodie Hongroise, No. 12, Liszt.

Miss Amy Fay's Piano Conversation, Rochester, N. Y.

Sonata, Op. 2, No. 3, Beethoven; Prelude and Fugue, in B flat minor, Bach; Muzurmes Edolins, Gottschalk; Waltz, A minor, Chopin; Duetto (Song without Words), Mendelssohn; Le Rossignol (The Nightingale), Liszt; Cicily, Grand Concert Waltz, A Midnight Barcarole, The Wind Demon, Jerome Hopkins.

Temple Grove Seminary, Saratoga, N. Y.

Minuet from symphony, Mozart-Schulhoff; Album Leaf, Op. 7, No. 2, Kirchner; Song, "The Owl and the Pussy Cat," Ingraham; Selection from Lebert and Stark's Method; Valse, Op. 56, Godard; Sons, "Star Vincino," Salvator Rosa; Song without Words, "Confession," Op. 25, Thome; Waltz, Op. 17, No. 3, Moszkowski; Song, "The Message of the Rose," Helen Hale; Nocturne, Op. 9, No. 2, Chopin; Waltz, Op. 24, Chopin; Song, "Morning Greeting," Paul Lacome; Polonaise, Op. 22, Chopin; Gavotte Moderne, Op. 11, E. Liebling; Song, "Echoes of Naples," Bevignani; Nuit Blanche, Op. 32, No. 16, "Resolution," Heiler; Song, "Love's Sunshine," Jules Jordan; Humoreske, Op. 14, Moszkowski.

Tremont M. E. Church, Washington Avenue and 17th Street, New York City, Miss Edith Ellis.

Vorspiel, "Liebster Jesu," Bach; Fifth Organ Concerto, Handel; Adagio in A flat, Op. 256, No. 1, Volkmar; Minuet and Trio, in E minor, Calkin; Polonaise, Op. 10, Bach; Communion in G, Bastie; Priests' March from Athalia, Mendelssohn; Minuet and Chorus from Samson, Handel; Ave Maria for the Organ, (Arcadelt 1640), Liszt; Sixth Organ Concerto, Handel.

[FOR THE ETUDE.]

ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THEORETICAL STUDIES TO THE PIANIST.

It is sometimes said by people who ought to know better that the study of harmony is of no benefit to a pianist. It requires, however, very little exercise of mere common sense to form a very different judgment in this matter.

Is it well to know facts and particulars concerning music, or to remain ignorant of them? Is it better to thoroughly understand what one plays, or to merely absorb it by some unexplainable or simply parrot-like process? Is it better to imitate anything that one may hear, or to form intelligent conceptions and to play with a thorough appreciation of the whole idea of a musical work? Is it wise to depend on this or that teacher or this or that player for one's style? Is it not a thousand times better to develop the artistic by means of appropriate studies, and thus to become, after a suitable period of training, independent of teachers, and able to form true judgments and to exercise pure taste without being continually helped by some other person?

The study of harmony is an important branch of a musical education. The pianist needs it in order to gain facility in distinguishing chords and discriminating between their different structures with quick and ready perception. It is necessary to him, also, in order to realize the different situations in which chords are found and the various effects by means of which they contrast with one another.

In the process of painting a landscape, the artist is careful to observe the effects of light reflected from one object to another. In like manner the different chords and various fragments of melody affect one another, and the musical artist must be careful to notice their mutual relation and influence if he would ensure a *musically* successful performance.

To many students the changes of keys are great puzzles, especially when minor keys prevail. Harmony comes as a needed aid to the student, and its precepts, when carefully regarded, make all these points clear to the mind. In connection with the study of general musical theory, it removes all that is mysterious, and sheds the clear light of day on all passages that have been vague and indefinite.

It is admitted that many works upon this subject do not receive modulation in a lucid manner, but recent books have given it more attention, and a clearer understanding of it is surely attainable by any student who do both the constructive and analytical work which is needful.

In brief, harmony is a great aid in the study of the text of all musical works, in grasping their sense and contents with a swift and sure apprehension.

But it has other uses than these. In memorizing it is a valuable aid. It is a well-known principle that the most vivid impressions are the most lasting. The study of harmony, rightly pursued, presents sharp discriminations, well-defined examples and clearly-pictured images. It appeals to the imagination and effectually awakens the activity of this important faculty. This in its turn conduces to the development of the powers of the memory. The memory becomes more retentive and amply meets all demands made upon it.

How many young ladies and gentlemen are obliged to make the awkward confession, "I do not play without my notes." Their friends are often thus mortified, even though they may not themselves be aware how real a distinction there is between five years in playing from notes which, instead of making a deep and lasting impression on the memory, leave only vague and disjointed ideas.

Some persons will say of such students, "they do not play musical ideas, they only play notes."

But this is, after all, a libel on many earnest students who really form true conceptions with good facility and certainly from the music page. The fault of a defective memory is not wholly theirs, but rather that of an imperfect and one-sided training.

To such pupils harmony, general theory, and counter point come as friends, and say, "We will help you. We will meet your difficulties and, with you, vanquish them."

Earnest students will always find that these studies will fully develop the powers of the memory and ensure their complete reliability. A larger large experience in these matters assures the writer of this article that the memory is as susceptible of cultivation as the other faculties. If not, why not?

Who made it? It is perfectly certain that nobody on earth knows. It is my private opinion that it was made by the Lord at the same time the other things were started. (See Genesis, Chaps. I and II.) Where did it come from? Ditto: What difference does that make? It is here, for better or for worse, and those who like it will use it; those who don't will let it alone. What is its correct form? Any form you choose. Why, bless your soul and body, haven't you found out that you may use any kind of a scale you please? If you wish to make an everlasting reputation for yourself, invent a new scale. One man, at least, is getting rather tired of these two old ones.

BLUNDER THIRTEENTH.—To think that the scale of C major is the only natural scale. There does seem to be some distant proof that such is the case, but I must leave that for some other time. In the sense you mean it, this scale is no more natural than any other. Had you always heard some other scale, this would doubtless sound very un-natural. The C major scale is the Ionian, or thirteenth scale, and the probability is that the other twelve had been used a long time before this—perhaps centuries. If it was in the beginning the only true and natural scale, how was it so long in discovery? If we cannot get out of this rut, it is my belief that our music will perish from sheer repetition or from musical marasmus. To claim that our present scales (either major or minor) are the only natural ones, is to show a most woful ignorance of the old church scales or modes. (Perhaps I will tell you all about them some day.) I do not propose to allow any student of mine to bump his head against the rocks in any such darkness as this.

BLUNDER FOURTEENTH.—To suppose that you have really written an "article," when you have only taken a cyclopaedia and rewritten some of its carefully prepared subjects in your own distracted language! We do not need any more of that sort of thing; give us something new and fresh. This you can only do by giving us some living experience of yourself or of those wiser than you. Do you remember the man with the muck rake in "Pilgrim's Progress?" How will you ever get forward if you take the same old pile forever?

BLUNDER FIFTEENTH.—To write letters of inquiry to musicians—or to anybody else, for that matter—and not enclose the courtesy of a return letter stamp. When the whole business is for your benefit, why should they pay the expense? It is hard enough work to write a letter at any time, without having to pay for the blessed honor and privilege! The other end of this blunder is, to sign your name with a grand flourish or fancy letters resembling the superscription of the King of the Fejee Islands. The bewildered professor studies over your name for days and nights. Let us suppose it is "William Mansfield, Oswego, New York." (I am not aware that there is any such person in existence.) After a very bad spell, the professor concludes to send a reply to "Mig Mousetrap, Ojoco, New Mexico." You, of course, receive no answer to your lovely flourishes, and conclude that the professor is a disoluteous person or an arrant humbug. Either send a printed card or use print letters for your full name and address, and gently study essays on uncommon sense.

BLUNDER SIXTEENTH.—Not to know a good thing when you see it. This applies to those music students who do not take THE ETUDE. It is by far the best paper for them in the United States, and no music student can afford to be without it. It makes some small mistakes sometimes (and probably angels do—one did, anyway), but it is still *facile princeps*; that Latin means "way up, tip top, tip top." If you do your duty, you will bring up the subscription list to a hundred thousand.

BLUNDER SEVENTEENTH.—To wait and wait. Your obstacles will never be less than now. There was once a man who wanted to get across a river. He had stood on the bank for several days, when some one asked him what he was waiting for. "Waiting for all the water to run by," was his answer.

To the true artist music should be a necessity and not merely an occupation, he should not manufacture music, he should live in it.—ROBERT FRANZ.

[FOR THE ETUDE.]

SOME MUSICAL BLUNDERS.

EUGENE THAYER, MUS. DOC.

BLUNDER TWELFTH.—To waste your life in trifles hunting. You will never get rich sifting sand to find pins and needles. I am reminded of this by the recent discussion about the minor scale.

ON THE USE OF STUDIES IN PIANO TEACHING.

By W. S. B. MATHEWS.

II.
FROM "HOW TO UNDERSTAND MUSIC." Vol. II.

Mr. B. J. Lang, the distinguished pianist and conductor, of Boston, gives the following, as, in his opinion, embracing the most essential elements of pianoforte instruction:—

Here is a list of what I am in the habit of using for studies:—
 Heller's Studies.
 Cramer (Billow's edition).
 Clementi, "Gradus," not edited by Tausig;
 Bach, two-part Inventions, and Well-tempered Clavichord.
 Chopin, Preludes.
 Schumann, opus 3, and op. 10.
 Chopin, Studies.
 Henselt, Studies.

Heller ought never to be forgotten, but he belongs to the poetical-musical side.

Dr. Louis Maas, also of Boston, gives the following:—

DEAR MR. MATHEWS.—
 The principal Studies that I use, progressively arranged, are the following:—

Bertini, Op. 29, 32.
 Czerny, Velocity, 3 books.
 Köhler, New School of Velocity.
 Heller, Op. 45, 46, 47.
 Cramer, Original Edition, 4 books.
 Czerny, Op. 818, 50 Studies.
 Jensen, Op. 32, 3 books.
 Czerny, Op. 740, 5 books.
 Moscheles, Op. 70, 24 Studies.
 Köhler, Op. 128, 12 Special Studies.
 Chopin, Studies.
 Czerny, Schule des Virtuosen.

You can use my name with these. Kindest greetings.

Mme. Rivé-King, the well-known pianist, sends the following account of her ideas upon this subject:—

In reply to your inquiry "what ten, or more, books of studies I consider INDISPENSABLE," I beg to say that I am not acquainted with any particular book, or set of studies, that, in my judgment, would be "indispensable." There are a great many excellent studies. For my own personal technical practice I do not use any studies; I find that the wide range of my concert and recital repertoire is sufficient to keep my technic up to the required standard. My own experience in teaching is so confined to Phrasing, cultivation of touch, and artistic finish, that I use the Chopin and Liszt studies, and the Tausig Daily Studies, together with a few of my own. Should I, through illness or other cause, lose several weeks' practice, I can soon bring my technic up to its usual smoothness and flexibility by the practice of playing Bach's Fugues. Almost every pianist and teacher has written either an instruction book or a set of studies, and many of them are really valuable. Among the many instruction books, that of Dr. William Mason is, in my opinion, one of the best. The studies written by Mr. Anton Streletzki, and Mr. Carlyle Petersilea, deserve high praise, and as a help to overcoming certain technical difficulties they will be found especially valuable, to those whose technic is not far enough advanced to use the studies of Chopin, Liszt, or Tausig.

Very sincerely yours,

JULIA RIVÉ-KING.

I also sent letters to several other teachers, among whom was Mr. Ledochowski, of Chicago, who prescribed the following course:—

Lehbert and Stark's first Book.
 Loeschhorn, op 66.
 Czerny, op 740.
 Bach, Preludes and Inventions.
 Cramer's Studies, Billow's edition.
 Clementi, Tausig's edition.
 Bach, Italian Concerto.
 Chopin, Studies, op. 10.
 Bach, Well Tempered Clavichord.
 Henselt, Studies.

A careful study of these lists and letters by eminent teachers confirms the opinion expressed by Dr. Mason, which, also, I had already deduced from my own experience. It is that while the literature of the pianoforte contains a vast number of studies by different composers, only a very few of them are, in reality, so vital and formative that we cannot do without them. Bach, for careful study, and for the acquisition of *voice*-playing (as distinguished from *chord*-playing), and for musical intelligence; Clementi and Scarlatti (the latter in very small amount) for classical virtuosity; Heller and the Mendelssohn "Songs Without Words," and a little Mozart for expressive playing of melodies; Loeschhorn's Op. 66 for "forming the execution"; Chopin, Schumann and Liszt for the modern school of fluent, expressive and brilliant concert playing. Each of these, at the proper time, we must have. Everything else is a matter of taste. No strictly progressive arrangement is possible, beyond a very loose and general one; for in different cases we might at one time desire first to improve the melody playing; at another the execution; at another chord-playing, etc., each of which would vary

the order. Yet if one were to divide the whole period of pianoforte instruction into three great divisions, the elementary, intermediate and advanced, the selections would be such as these:—

Elementary.—Technics, Loeschhorn Op. 65 and 66, Bks. I and II; Mathews' Phrasing (which contains the best pieces in Heller's Op. 46 and 47, as well as a part of Schumann's "Kinderscenen"); perhaps some of Haberber and Behren's velocity.

Intermediate.—Bach's inventions, selections from the "Bach Album" in the Peters Edition. Selections from Mendelssohn's "Songs Without Words," Nos. 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 18, 30 and 27. Chopin's Nocturne in E flat, Op. 9; Impromptu in A flat, Waltz in D flat and Nocturne in F minor. Schumann's Phantasie Pieces, Op. 12, Nos. 3, 4, 2, 7 and 8; also Romance in F sharp. Bach's Preludes and Fugues in C minor, F major, G minor and C sharp major in "Well-Tempered Clavier." A few pleasing pieces by Raff, Mason and Rubinstein. Possibly such a sonata as Beethoven's 1st, in F minor or C minor, Op. 10.

Advanced.—More Bach, a little Clementi, Chopin's Studies, beginning with No. 8, Nos. 12, 5, 1, 2, 3. Schumann's Novellettes in E and F; "Etudes Symphoniques." Some of the Liszt-Schubert songs; also Liszt's "Rigoletto," "Tannhäuser," "Spinnerel," etc. By this time the pupil is able to study almost anything he desires or that the teacher chooses.

If in all this course the rule of Mme. Nielsen-Rounsville be observed, to have every piece and study memorized and practiced, sooner or later, until it can be played like a concert performance, it is quite certain that the playing will take on a character of flexibility and of ready responsiveness to the will and sensibility which was unknown to the playing of the old school, and impossible to be obtained in these times, also, so long as the greater part of the time is spent in the study of meaningless combinations of tone-forms, having only a mechanical intention.

With a view of bringing out the remarkable agreements of these lists, in regard to the usefulness of certain ones of these sets of studies, concerning which nearly all the writers are unanimous, I had intended to tabulate them. But upon completing the task, I discovered that it amounted to little more than a repetition of the names of Heller, Cramer, Loeschhorn, Czerny, Clementi and Henselt. The Tausig so-called "daily studies" are exercises and not studies in the meaning of the present discussion. We have to do here with studies having, at least, a color of artistic form, to which the Tausig daily studies make no pretension.

This discussion would be incomplete if it failed to mention the application of certain pieces to purposes of study. I refer to such finger pieces as Weber's "Perpetual Motion" rondo in C, Raff's "La Fileuse," etc. These pieces have the merit of making unusual technical demands upon the player, in requiring a long series of finger touches in uniform rapidity, and at too high a degree of speed to be thought of each for itself as it occurs. They are played in part automatically, after being prepared by a large number of repetitions in perfectly correct order. Pieces of this kind are more useful than exercises pure and simple, because the effect, when it is properly mastered, is so much more interesting than anything to be found in studies proper, as to reward the pupil for the countless number of repetitions necessary for playing them properly. It will be found possible, therefore, to secure a good quality of practice upon something of this sort, at a time when the pupil is not in a fit state to concentrate attention upon a task not having a reward somewhere in it for the musical feelings, properly so-called, or, at least, for the feelings of pride in good playing. But to enter into a discussion of piano teaching upon this side, would take us too far. Enough to place upon record here the suggestion, that there is no piece having in it combinations worth making, and of such complexity as not to be performed by the pupil at first trial, but what at one time or another in the development might prove of value as a study; and it will also be found, in general, that studies increase in usefulness just in proportion to their having in them the possibility of serving as pieces after they have been mastered as exercises. The converse of this is not true, however, that pieces are worthless for use in study unless they require a large amount of practice to master them. The development of a musical style of playing makes it necessary that a considerable part of the playing be spent upon pieces in which the music is the main thing; music of such a quality that it lies within easy reach of the pupil's musical consciousness as it then exists.

The entire discussion needs to be supplemented with the following aphorism which the young teacher will do well never to lose sight of. It is:—

"Piano playing is mainly a matter of the mind, and not primarily of the muscles, and this is more and more the case the higher one goes in it." While merely muscular preparation requires considerable attention, the greatest proportion of the time is wasted in harping upon muscular and mechanical relations, when the hindrance to elegant playing exists in the mind—in the musical consciousness of the pupil or student. Those who fail to play effectively after study, do so, nine times out of ten, from *mental* reasons, and not from muscular reasons. Therefore, the more you can do for the pupil's musical sensitiveness, and the more you can help him to think his music as musicians think it, the easier you will find it to make him play in a manner to please every one who hears him.

THE DEPPE METHOD AGAIN.

MR. EDITOR:—

Dear Sir:—Mr. W. S. B. Mathews and Mr. Frederick Clark seem to have had a decided objection to my teaching the Deppe method. Now I am rather surprised at this, since I am perfectly willing that Mr. Mathews should teach the Mason Piano Technics and "How to Understand Music," and that Mr. Clark should teach the "Clark-Steiniger rotary torsion, spiral art of Pianism," though I know nothing about these respective methods except from the eulogies written about them by Mr. Mathews and Mr. Clark. It does not worry me in the least that each of these gentlemen considers himself superior to all other teachers, and if they can convince the world of that fact, it must be better for them! Meanwhile, I must claim the right to occupy my own small musical corner. I am glad to see Mr. Mathews applying Deppe tests, as, for instance, where he says that "when the hand looks well, it is right"—one of Deppe's maxims (see page 289 of my book, "Music Study in Germany"). If Mr. Mathews goes on studying into the Deppe method, he will learn a good many other things that apply, and will in the end be able to emulate certain other gentlemen, and teach the Deppe method quite as if it were his own.

I don't like to say anything against Mr. Mathews, as he is so good-hearted, and always "repents him of the evil" after he has attacked me in print. He always tells me afterward that he "did not mean what he wrote, and that he did not know how he came to do it." His pen gets away with him; and as I am aware of this little weakness, I don't resent his articles any more, even if they cost me a pupil or two. I don't even remonstrate when he writes such extraordinary statements as that "Czerny has no musical merit whatever; that Cramer is away to one side of the modern piano technic," and that pupils had better study Raff's shallow little *Fleitze* as a substitute for the solid and instructive *Etudes* by these classic masters.

Mr. Mathews is really a good friend of mine, though it might not appear so to the public. Let us pass on to Mr. Frederick Clark. This gentleman, it will be remembered, went to Europe to study music. According to his own book, he took some lessons of many great masters, but discovered that none of them knew as much as he did himself. Thereupon he decided to become the apostle of a new piano method, which should combine the good points of all the others. Strange to say, Mr. Clark advertises his terms as only \$50.00 per twenty lessons, while his wife, Anna Steiniger, charges \$100.00, or just double, for the same number of lessons as her husband. Now, if Anna Steiniger learned the important secrets from Fred, Clark that he says she did, and *not* from Deppe (though she studied twelve years with Deppe, made her artistic reputation, and even played in the Gewandhaus), then while under his instruction, it seems to me that there ought to be no room, and that Frederick should charge the \$100.00 and not the \$50.00, since it is evident that Frederick is the cleverer of the two. From this master of terms it would seem that Frederick feels in his heart that it is worth more to be an artist than to theorize about it. It is a dead give away for him. Mr. Clark is still more remarkable in his statements about your humble servant than Mr. Mathews is. He says that Deppe "does not regard me as his pupil, and that he considers that I ruined him."

In answer to this statement (it must be admitted that Mr. Clark sticks at nothing), I would say, that when I returned to Berlin, three years ago, Deppe put off his summer travel in order to be there when I arrived, and to give me his entire time. He introduced me to his circle of pupils, by whom I was received with the greatest honors, and did everything in his power to show my his appreciation of what had written about him in my book. Last year Deppe sent me a pamphlet to translate, called "*Die Deppe'sche Lehre des Klavierspiels*," which is being interpreted, "*The Deppe Method of Piano Playing*." It was written by Heinrich Klose, one of Deppe's pupils, under his immediate supervision. In this pamphlet the Deppe method is not only described *exactly* as I describe it, but long quotations are made from my book in confirmation of it, showing that Deppe fully endorses what I have written about him.

Mr. Mathews and Mr. Clark both say that I have represented Deppe only as a teacher of technic, and Mr. Clark says that Deppe resents this. In reply to this statement I would say, that one of the quotations from my book in Klose's pamphlet is the following one from page 301 of "Music Study in Germany":—

"From my telling you so much about technicalities, you may not think Deppe only a pedagogue. He is in reality the author of music, and all these things are only *means to an end*."

In German, Klose has written the last sentence in italics—"alle jene Kleinen Dinge sind nur Mittel zum Zweck." I think many allusions to Deppe's musical insight will be found in my book, and if Mr. Clark will read page 814 of it, he will even find a description of a lesson given by Deppe to his wife on Wagner's "Spinning Song," at which I was present, and where I speak of

Deppe's "subtle and telling conception." But why multiply words, Mr. Editor? I will close this article by recommending your readers to send for "Die Deppe'sche Lehre des Klavierspiels." Its cost is only a trifle, and it is published in Hamburg by Gustav Edward Nolte (Herald'sche Buchhandlung). Those who read German will be able to learn about the Deppe method, and also what Deppe thinks of me, at the same time, from it. If he denied me as a pupil, it would be as bad as Anna Steiniger's going back on him as a teacher. Deppe would be incapable of such a thing. Here is a question which I would like to ask for discussion: "Is Deppe, as a professional or allowable for a music teacher, who is at the same time a journalist, to try and bring other music teachers into discredit with the public, from which they all draw their substance?"

AMY FAY.

MISSING LESSONS.

In reference to the teacher who walks a mile, rides a mile, and then walks one more mile, etc., I would say he is not alone in his misery. Such injustice to teachers I experience, and see others doing all the time. I asked the advice of my last teacher, a prominent musician of Boston, what course he would pursue with a pupil who would take a lesson only at his own convenience.

"Well," he said, "first I should urge, then talk seriously, and if these two means failed make the best of it." I think it depends entirely upon the position of the teacher. If I had plenty of pupils, and couldn't induce them to deal fairly by me, I should drop them. Very few teachers, however, are in a condition financially to do this. Here is a little story for you, wholly true.

A lady of my acquaintance came from "away down in Maine" to study music of Calixa Lavallee, of Boston. After doing so she settled here and taught. Going home one summer on vacation, she was invited, with some others, to a new piano boudoir. THE MAN of the house was a very fine performer, and chose pieces, as best she could, to suit their taste. A large crowd finally gathered about the piano, and the following conversation ensued:

Mr. D.—"I never saw but one really graceful player, and she can play the most difficult music with a fifty cent piece on the top of her hand."

Our friend, Miss F.—"But how could she use her wrists and arms, etc.?"

Mr. D.—"O, she was so far advanced she knew how."

Miss F.—"New York (visiting at the hotel).—"Why, yes; don't you remember Ossie? She took lessons until she learned all there was on the piano, and they had to put her on to the organ."

Miss F.—"Really, I didn't know there was any limit to the science of the music of any instrument. Did she play classical music?"

Mrs. N. Y.—"Is that any particular grade of music?"

Miss F.—"Mozart's, Handel's, etc."

Mrs. N. Y.—"O, it was all of eight years ago we knew her, and I guess classical music was not written then."

ADA M. CAME.

Let me say to "Country Professor" you should have an understanding with each pupil at the beginning of the quarter, in regard to the circumstances under which the lessons missed shall be paid for, or deducted and lost by the teacher. I do not believe that any teacher has a "cast-iron rule" in relation to the matter, for often "circumstances alter cases."

If a pupil omits lessons "because he has not practiced," "because he has company," "because he goes away on a visit for a few weeks," "because he is indisposed to take them," or for any other trivial excuse, he ought to distinctly understand that he must pay for all such lessons omitted. A conscientious pupil will not miss a lesson if it can possibly be avoided. Carrying out the precepts of the "golden rule," I do not believe that a teacher should charge a pupil for lessons missed on account of sickness. If a pupil will not take lessons with reasonable regularity, and pay for the same, it is better to dismiss him at once, or for a time, than to teach him and credit him.

I am well aware of the fact that it was not through the "Country Professor" that sickness occurred in the family of his pupil, which prevented the using of the piano; but the point is, would you want to pay for the lesson if you had been in the pupil's place? It is necessary to be more particular and strict with some pupils than with others. Sometimes it is best to require a pupil to always pay in advance for his lessons, which, in some cases, tends to greater regularity in practicing, and the omission of but few lessons. Of course, all pupils hungering and thirsting for the "inner meaning" of music will value the instruction they receive more highly than the matter of dollars and cents, and a knowledge of this fact is one of the greatest comforts that a good teacher has, for it does more good than the money which he receives.

It is well for a teacher to practice his piano, or any other instrument, unless he is willing to do his part of the work of learning. But at the same time, in our dealings with our fellow men and "fellow women," we should "let justice be tempered by mercy."

HENRY HARDING.

ETUDE:—

In reply to article in April ETUDE. It all depends upon the bargain, whether the "Country Professor" would be entitled to his pay for the lesson lost. He earned his money anyway, whether he gave the lesson or not; but is he entitled to it on that ground alone? One is paid for the lesson, and not for the trouble of getting to and from the lesson.

The probability is, that nothing was said about "missing lessons, and whether they should be charged." In such case the "Professor" would be blamed at the outset. This would be particularly true at the first, otherwise I doubt if he could legally collect his pay, although I have no doubt but what he is professionally entitled to it. In the majority of cases it would not be policy to press the payment of a single lost lesson; it would probably lead to the pupil's stopping entirely. We must do as we can until we do as we will, and many teachers are not so independent, financially, that they can afford to lose a scholar.

On the other hand, some people seem to expect a teacher should put up with any inconvenience. They make a sort of pack horse of him; they keep him waiting in cold rooms; they roast him in warm ones; they take the lesson or not, as they choose, and expect the teacher to foot the bill, and I am sorry to say teachers can be found who are willing to encourage this species of mannerism. A good way to do is to charge one-half the lesson lost. A better way to do is to charge the whole lesson. The pupil will not then miss so many, thereby losing their interest in the work.

E. A. SMITH.

RAINBOW REFERENCE CARDS.

EDITOR OF THE ETUDE:—

Please allow me to answer the criticism upon the Rainbow Reference Card which appeared in the April issue of your paper.

The card does not presuppose "that the pupil is familiar with the scales and accustomed to pass the third finger on all other occasions," else these things would not be so thoroughly explained on the back of the card. It presupposes that the pupils know nothing at all about it. Taking this for granted, it will require about fifteen minutes' teaching to enable a child to pick out, for himself, with one finger, any major or harmonic minor scale, from any key, either black or white. He need not even know the names of the keys of the piano or the notes on the staff. So much for the forms of the scales. Surely this is beginning them as "early as possible."

In giving "only one fingering for the minor scales," the card follows the example of standard text-books. Those teachers who "use a different fingering for some harmonic major scales, to avoid passing the fourth finger over an augmented second," will find it quite as easy to make exceptions to the Reference Card as to any other scale method. Two such cases occur in the twenty-four scales for the right hand and one in the twenty-four for the left.

Any one who reads the directions carefully will notice that pupils are not to be told what "major, minor and augmented seconds are," but simply how to play them. If the little musicians are to be taught broadly, these words ought to be "terms of every-day life," since they are among the first needed in studying harmony.

Why is it "insulting to teachers" to give a list of the things necessary for a pupil to understand in using a new method? But, then, there is nowhere on the card an explanation to teachers, or any one else, of what a "major or minor second is." It would be "altogether out of place," as all teachers know it already; they may impart their knowledge to the pupil if they wish, although it is quite unnecessary in using the card. Teachers are not even told how to play them. They are only told that a pupil must be able to do this, in order to pick out his new scale by himself. If in an arithmetic we see this sentence, "The pupil must know that one and one are two," we know the author does not explain to begin the one and one are two, but merely that pupils must know this fact.

A child who has learned the use of this card may review all his scales at every lesson without notes or a word from his teacher. This will take only five minutes, since, in case he forgets, one glance at the card will show him his mistake instantly. This saving of time and breath enables the teacher to give all his attention to the technique.

There can be no easier way of teaching a series of many facts than by classifying them and *picturing* the classes with *actual colors*. It is because the Rainbow Reference Card is based on such principles as this that its merits are acknowledged and the card endorsed by some of the highest authorities on music and music teaching.

KATE H. BLOCHER.

Liszt's whole appearance, and his mobility, immediately indicate one of those personalities towards which one is attracted solely by their individuality. God's hand has impressed a special seal upon them that distinguishes them amongst a thousand.—HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSON.

WEARINESS.

Nº 6.

Plaintively.

J. OTTO.

A musical score for piano. The top staff shows a treble clef, a key signature of two flats, and a tempo marking "a tempo". The bottom staff shows a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The score consists of four measures. In the first measure, the treble staff has a dynamic "pp" and the bass staff has eighth-note chords. In the second measure, the treble staff has eighth-note chords and the bass staff has eighth-note chords. In the third measure, the treble staff has eighth-note chords and the bass staff has eighth-note chords. In the fourth measure, the treble staff has eighth-note chords and the bass staff has eighth-note chords. There are slurs and grace notes present in the treble staff.

A musical score for piano in G major, 2/4 time. The upper staff shows a melodic line with eighth-note patterns and grace notes. The lower staff provides harmonic support with sustained notes and eighth-note chords. Measure 1 starts with a forte dynamic. Measures 2-3 show eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Measure 4 begins with a forte dynamic. Measures 5-6 show eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Measure 7 begins with a forte dynamic. Measure 8 ends with a fermata over the bass note.

The image shows a page of sheet music for piano. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both staves are in 2/4 time with a key signature of one flat. Fingerings are indicated above the notes: 3 2 1 8, 3 4 3 2, 3 4 3 2 5 1 3, 1 3, 8 1 3 4 2 1, 4 3 1 5 3 1, 4 2 4 5 1, rit., morendo pp, and 4 3 2 1. A dynamic marking 'pp' is placed under a bass note. The music concludes with a final dynamic marking 'pp' followed by a fermata over a bass note.

Weariness.

BOAT SONG.

N^o 3.

J. OTTO.

Tranquilly.

The music is for piano, consisting of four staves. The top staff is treble clef, G major, common time. The second and third staves are bass clef, F major, common time. The bottom staff is bass clef, C major, common time. The music is divided into measures by vertical bar lines. Fingerings are indicated above the notes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Dynamics include *p* (piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and sforzando marks. Pedal points are marked with asterisks (*). The music is titled "BOAT SONG." and numbered "N^o 3." at the top left. The composer's name, "J. OTTO.", is at the top right. The tempo is marked "Tranquilly." in the center.

*) The small notes may be taken by smaller hands.

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A handwritten musical score for two voices (Soprano and Alto) and piano. The score consists of five systems of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The vocal parts are written in soprano and alto clefs, with lyrics in German. The piano part is in the bass clef. The score includes dynamic markings such as *p*, *pp*, and *f*, and various performance instructions like slurs, grace notes, and fermatas. The vocal parts feature many grace notes and sustained notes. The piano part provides harmonic support with sustained notes and chords.

Boat Song.

GLOCKENSPIEL. (CHIMING BELLS.) Idylle.

Un poco Allegretto. m. m. J = 90.

Albert Biehl, Op. 111.



dolce lusingando
pp
f
dim.
dolce

Chiming Bells.

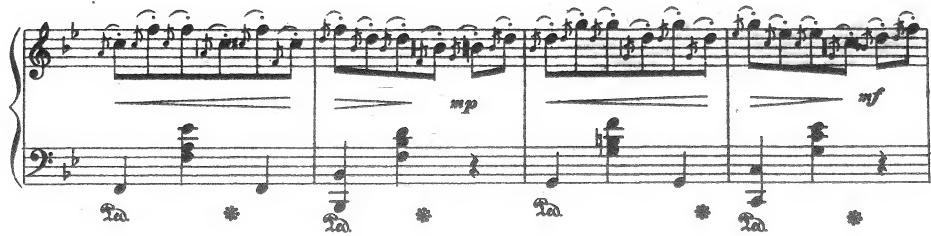
lusingando

Continuation of the musical score. Measure 6 starts with a eighth-note chord in the bass. Measures 7-8 show complex sixteenth-note patterns with grace notes and dynamic markings *p* and *mf*. Measure 9 concludes with a bass note followed by a fermata.

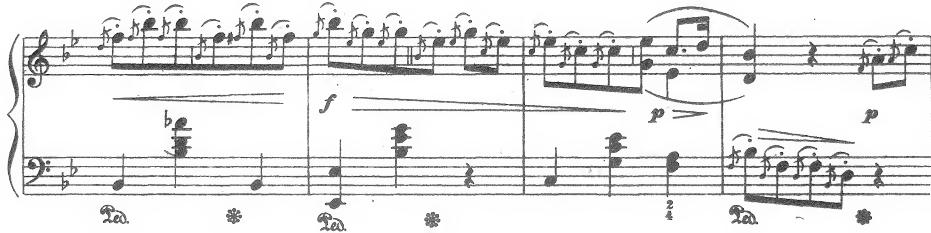
Measures 11-15 feature sixteenth-note patterns in the treble staff. Measure 11 includes dynamic *pp*. Measure 12 contains grace notes. Measures 13-14 include dynamic *cre*, *scen*, and *rit.* Measure 15 concludes with a bass note followed by a fermata.

Measures 16-20 show sixteenth-note patterns in the treble staff. Measure 16 includes dynamic *a tempo*. Measures 17-18 are rests. Measure 19 concludes with a bass note followed by a fermata.

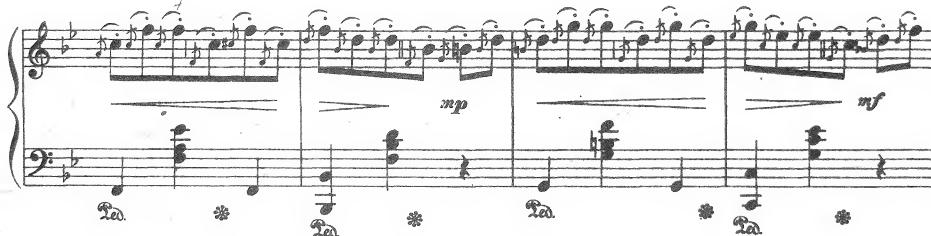
Measures 21-25 show sixteenth-note patterns in the treble staff. Measures 22-23 are rests. Measures 24-25 conclude with bass notes and fermatas.



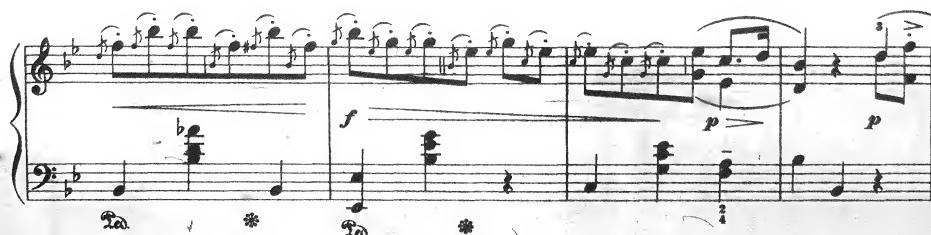
Musical score page 1. The score consists of two staves. The top staff is treble clef and the bottom staff is bass clef. Both staves are in common time (indicated by a '4'). The key signature is one flat. The music features eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Dynamics include *mp* and *mf*. Pedal points are marked with 'Ped.' and asterisks (*). The bass staff has a prominent bassoon part.



Musical score page 2. The score continues with two staves. The top staff shows a continuation of the eighth-note patterns with grace notes. The dynamics *f*, *p*, and *p* are indicated. Pedal points are marked with 'Ped.' and asterisks (*). The bass staff includes a bassoon part with a dynamic *b*.



Musical score page 3. The score continues with two staves. The top staff shows a continuation of the eighth-note patterns with grace notes. The dynamics *mp* and *mf* are indicated. Pedal points are marked with 'Ped.' and asterisks (*).



Musical score page 4. The score continues with two staves. The top staff shows a continuation of the eighth-note patterns with grace notes. The dynamics *f*, *p*, and *p* are indicated. Pedal points are marked with 'Ped.' and asterisks (*).

Chiming Bells.

Piano sheet music in G minor (two sharps) and common time. The right hand plays a sixteenth-note pattern with grace notes, indicated by 'dolce' dynamics. The left hand provides harmonic support with sustained notes and chords.

Piano sheet music in G minor (two sharps) and common time. The right hand continues the sixteenth-note pattern with grace notes, indicated by 'p rit.' and 'p' dynamics. The left hand provides harmonic support with sustained notes and chords.

Piano sheet music in G minor (two sharps) and common time. The right hand plays a sixteenth-note pattern with grace notes, indicated by 'dolce' and 'mf' dynamics. The left hand provides harmonic support with sustained notes and chords.

Piano sheet music in G minor (two sharps) and common time. The right hand plays a sixteenth-note pattern with grace notes, indicated by 'p', 'p rit.', and 'pp' dynamics. The left hand provides harmonic support with sustained notes and chords. The section ends with a 'Lento.' dynamic.

Chiming Bells.

LITTLE DREAMER'S WALTZ.

BY THEODORE MOELLING.

I Allegro moderato.

Marcato la melodia

p

poco cres.

p

II

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III(1)

A musical score page featuring two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both staves have a key signature of one sharp. The music consists of six measures. Measure 1: 2 eighth-note pairs. Measure 2: 3 eighth-note pairs. Measure 3: 3 eighth-note pairs. Measure 4: 2 eighth-note pairs. Measure 5: 3 eighth-note pairs. Measure 6: 2 eighth-note pairs. A dynamic marking "Rall" is placed above the second measure.

A musical score page featuring two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both staves have a key signature of one sharp. The music consists of six measures. Measure 1: 2 eighth-note pairs. Measure 2: 3 eighth-note pairs. Measure 3: 3 eighth-note pairs. Measure 4: 2 eighth-note pairs. Measure 5: 3 eighth-note pairs. Measure 6: 2 eighth-note pairs.

A musical score page featuring two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both staves have a key signature of one sharp. The music consists of six measures. Measure 1: 2 eighth-note pairs. Measure 2: 3 eighth-note pairs. Measure 3: 3 eighth-note pairs. Measure 4: 2 eighth-note pairs. Measure 5: 3 eighth-note pairs. Measure 6: 2 eighth-note pairs. Dynamic markings "poco cres" are placed below the first two measures. Measure 7: 1st ending, dynamic "ff". Measure 8: 2nd ending, dynamic "dolee".

A musical score page featuring two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both staves have a key signature of one sharp. The music consists of six measures. Measure 1: 2 eighth-note pairs. Measure 2: 3 eighth-note pairs. Measure 3: 3 eighth-note pairs. Measure 4: 2 eighth-note pairs. Measure 5: 3 eighth-note pairs. Measure 6: 2 eighth-note pairs. A dynamic marking "p" is placed above the fourth measure.

A musical score page showing two measures of music. The key signature is A major (three sharps). Measure 11 starts with a forte dynamic (f) in the treble clef staff, followed by eighth-note chords in the bass clef staff. Measure 12 begins with a piano dynamic (p) in the treble clef staff, followed by eighth-note chords in the bass clef staff.

A musical score for piano, featuring two staves. The top staff uses a treble clef and the bottom staff uses a bass clef. Both staves are in common time (indicated by a 'C'). Measure 11 begins with a series of eighth-note chords in the treble staff, followed by a dynamic marking 'p' (piano) and a sixteenth-note chord in the bass staff. Measure 12 continues with eighth-note chords in both staves, separated by vertical bar lines.

A musical score for piano, featuring two staves. The top staff uses a treble clef and the bottom staff uses a bass clef. The key signature is one sharp. Measure 1 starts with a forte dynamic (f) in the bass staff, followed by eighth-note chords in both staves. Measure 2 begins with a half note in the bass staff. Measure 3 features a melodic line in the treble staff with grace notes above the main notes. Measure 4 contains a dynamic marking 'p' (piano). Measure 5 shows a continuation of the melodic line in the treble staff.

A musical score for piano, featuring two staves. The top staff uses a treble clef and the bottom staff uses a bass clef. Measure 2 begins with a forte dynamic, indicated by a large 'F' above the notes. The melody consists of eighth-note patterns. Measure 3 starts with a piano dynamic, indicated by a small 'p'. The melody continues with eighth-note patterns. The score includes measure numbers '2' and '3' above the staves, and '15' below the bass staff. There are also various performance markings like grace notes and slurs.

A musical score page showing two staves. The top staff is for the piano, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. It includes dynamic markings like *p*, *poco*, *eres*, *e*, *rall*, and *ff*. The bottom staff is for the voice, with a bass clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. The vocal line consists of eighth-note chords. The page number "10" is at the bottom left, and the measure numbers "11" and "12" are at the top center.

Little Dreamer's Waltz.

Practical Letters to Teachers

BY W. S. B. MATHEWS.

ADVICE TO A HARD CASE.

WHEN I read over these letters for two or three months back, something I am not fond of doing, it strikes me that we are too apt to get our study of music and our teaching of it into a wrong key. We are what is named "practical," in our miscalculating century, which is to say commonplace, ordinary, mechanical. We talk much of fingers, technic, and the mechanical part of teaching, while the true end of it all, the ability to appreciate, enjoy, interpret, and perhaps produce music, is lost sight of. I do not feel that we in THE ETUDE are the greatest sinners of all in this respect, for the letters that come in for answer are even more mechanical than the directions which the collective editorial mind gives out in response.

The following letter just received is a case in point. Observer:—

After trying for some time without success to solve a problem, I appeal to your kindness through "Letters to Teachers," assuring you that whatever advice you choose to offer will be thankfully received and highly appreciated.

The muscles and ligaments of my hands and wrists are naturally as hard as iron; to overcome this I have, for some time, used an arrangement of my own to soften them by stretching, technical practice failing to help me much. I spend fifteen minutes in this way before my daily piano practice, and think it helps me; but I am suspicious that my hands may be injured in this way if I am not careful. My stretching practice is, principally, to separate the fingers, loosen the knuckle joints and expand the hand. In connection with this, I work on expansion exercises at the piano, taking the most difficult hand positions I can find, and compelling the fingers to obey the will by force, working them till they are quite tired.

A great deal of the best music which I am ambitious to play requires independence of fingers while the hand is extended over a large interval, and for that I am working hard.

I often find the dominant seventh chord (with the octave) in certain inversions which I cannot strike neatly, nor play its tones in succession with a good touch without moving the hand. I am now trying to play Kullak's five finger exercises on this chord in all keys and all inversions. Is my course in "breaking" my stiff muscles a wise one, or am I making a mistake?

My hand is medium size, fingers good length, natural growth ceased.

I realize my case is a hard one, but I have a brave heart and a working disposition, and I feel that this must be done.

yet only able to play rude and easy pieces, and those rather stiffly, the case would be very different. Moreover, if he had represented himself as ambitious of being a concert player, and at the same time owned up to twenty years of age, a hard hand, and a small knowledge of music, and still smaller practical success in playing the piano, it would show that he was engaging himself in the impossible.

I would say, in general, that I doubt the advantage of such practices as the writer mentions, unless they form a very small proportion of the entire time spent in music. If they are carried along hand in hand with artistic performances of music of a higher order, with all the delicate modulations and nuances belonging to this kind of music, they would do no harm so long as the expressive quality of the playing showed improvement. But whenever the playing became more mechanical and the expression fell off in a way to indicate a loss of tone in the hand, it would be time to stop. My own opinion is that the Technicon is a complete gymnasium for the hand, wrist and arm, to all piano-playing purposes. Anything one can do upon that I would consider safe, except overdoing, especially in the stretching and separating motions upon the triangle in the centre of the Technicon.

There is another view of this subject which is worthy more attention than it has received. It is found in the question, "Why attempt to do the impossible?" As the world now goes, there are a few persons born every year with exceptionally good heredity for playing the piano. They have responsive and obedient hands, and at an early age are able to play pleasingly. They do with little or no study passages which students like the writer of this letter take months and months to practice, and after all are never able to do them successfully. Now, it is impossible for students of the ordinary kind to compete with these. Piano playing is not like some forms of study, which carry their own rewards with them. Practicing upon the piano in a mechanical way for a series of years is about the least productive mental exercise an intelligent being can occupy himself in. At the end of it all he is merely an imperfect machine. A crank could turn off a tune better. Even if such a student should succeed in becoming a good player, his playing would lack the popular element to such an extent as to place him at a serious disadvantage as compared with the student specially gifted for it.

Piano playing is primarily a matter of mind, but the condition of the musical mind working upon the piano, is its coexistence with a hand and arm of fine fibre and responsive organization. When this condition does not exist, as the letter of the correspondent implies that it does not exist in the present instance, the best thing for the individual to do, in my opinion, is to turn himself to some other form of musical activity. It is still open to him to be a good teacher, a good writer about music, a good composer, perhaps; but a good pianist without a responsive hand is impossible, as the standard now exists. While certain mechanical attainments are possible as the sure reward of perseverance, the musical inspiration becomes lost in the process, and at the end of it all the person is what I have already called him—a bad machine.

To say this is not to cut the applicant off from a musical life, which may happen to be the only one promising to afford him satisfaction in pursuing it. One can be ever so musical and not play the piano at all well.

Of course, I do not know whether these remarks apply at all to the writer of the foregoing letter. Most likely they do not. Nevertheless, they are worthy of his attention.

If any one wants to know whether even genius can develop itself without hard work, I say certainly not. The ability to work hard is one of the decisive signs of genius. In fact, a friend of mine, Bishop Fowler, of the Methodist Church, used to say that genius is nothing else than the endless capacity to work. At another time he said, that the men got on who were able to do ten men's work in the long run. This is about the size of it. Not even the most spontaneous genius is able to do music without work. The most spontaneous player now before the public is Madame Teresa Carreño. Get her pamphlet,

published by Albert Weber, and see what she says about the manner in which her father trained her. I have embodied the letter in the chapter on the "Use of Studies in Piano Teaching," now publishing in THE ETUDE. It was originally written in answer to my question, and put in the advertising pamphlet because it gives such a good idea of the amount of work one has to do.

I have wandered far from the subject with which I started. It is the necessity of keeping within reach of the key-note, which in music is always the idea of experiencing music, as a moving of feeling, as an expression of the beautiful in tones. Technic, and everything else of a technical nature, is only so much material through which the spiritual has to express itself. This is exactly what Mendel says of Bach's technic in composition. He declares that imitation, counterpoint, fugue, and every form of musical learning and cleverness was to Bach "only a part of the material through which the spiritual came to expression."

II.

When I had written the above, I stopped and addressed a private letter to the correspondent, asking the missing particulars above specified. The following has just come to hand, in time to go in with the other, thus making the record complete:—

DEAR SIR:—Your favor of 26th is received. At the time I commenced stretching my muscles I was twenty-seven years old; I have been at it one year and a half. I know it has helped me considerably, and I believe once I get it I gain slowly. I have sometimes thought it caused a tired, stiff, or bound condition of the hands, which I feel after two hours' piano practice.

This last is often caused, you know, by a heavy bearing-down touch, which throws a great weight on the hands; but I carry a very light forearm, and get my power mostly from the wrist. In the touch which I use mostly for melody, scales, etc., the muscular sensation is similar to that of an effort to elevate the wrist *without doing so*; wrist flexible, finger joints flexible but firm. Any effort I make to play with a strong tone, rapidly, is fruitless; the pressure necessary to produce the tone impedes the action of my fingers. The great trouble is to get them up quick enough. Perhaps some of the trouble is caused by working my hands too hard. I am in the habit of taking a difficult figure and repeating it till the muscles refuse to move. This was the advice of a teacher, but I think it is the worst thing I ever did. I have worked on A. D. Turner's Op. 7, No. 24, fifteen minutes daily for one year, have improved on it much, but cannot play it through with good grace without stopping to rest my hands. The desire of power called for in many parts of this study I cannot produce, and cannot strike the chord in next to last measure (*d'by f*).

In answer to your question regarding what kind of pieces I can play in a manner to afford enjoyment to others, I will say I am obliged to select those which demands on technic are small, and the list embraces anything in the grade of the Concine Studies Op. 30 and 44, Heller, Op. 78 and 82, and the least difficult of Mendelssohn S. W. W. I am obliged to fight shy of rapid running arpeggios; I cannot play them legato and pass the thumb smoothly; my thumb joint is in need of special training for passing under. In answer to your inquiry as to my ambition, I will say that I am devoutly thankful for the very little ability that I possess, but I long to travel as far on the road to musicianship as my small talent will carry me. This ambition is not fancy, neither is it the desire of one who is merely interested in music; nor of one who has passed beyond the mere delighted feeling of one who loves for musical art cannot be expressed on paper, intense, devoted, pure, reverential. If I do not work my way through the Haydn and Mozart sonatas, and master some of Beethoven and Bach, I shall consider my existence a blank; and this is only a fraction of what I want to do. You see my taste and ambition is that of an artist, while my technical attainments are those of a novice.

Speaking honestly, I have many misgivings as to my talents; and on consideration of certain circumstances under which I labor, I feel I have little to hope for. But I believe you can understand my position: it is similar to that of the drowning man who will call at a straw to save the life that is dear to him.

My temperament is imaginative and poetical; I am inclined to go to contemplation, and a passionate love of Nature. These feelings are a delight to me, although I have no opportunity to indulge them; they are not in harmony with circumstances.

I trust you will pardon the presumption, but I send you by this mail a few lines, written on my way home after a concert; the programme including Beethoven's Second Symphony, Adagio from Third Symphony, Man-

deßjohn and choruses from "Inflammatus" and "Creation." I send them only because I think they will help you to understand me. I write thus frankly, as you requested. I thank you sincerely for taking the trouble to write, and am respectfully yours,

L.

This answer of his brings out quite strongly the danger I mentioned of overdoing mechanical exercises on the part of those whose hands are old and their wills resolute. Such are far more liable to overdo than younger persons. I would say, however, that the good sense of the correspondent and his ambition are so evident that I have hopes of him in spite of his age, although this element is certainly against him. Age adds to the difficulties of setting up new automatisms in the brain and the muscular system; yet it is not impossible.

If I may give a case in point, I will mention the art of type-writing. I am writing these remarks upon a Hammond type-writer, at a speed about twice that of rapid writing with a pen. I think faster, write with less effort, and save half the time of composition, besides being able, by its help, to have my "copy" in better shape for the printer and susceptible of more thorough revision before sending away. Did it ever occur to you that the act of writing rapidly is one of the most complicated automatisms that we ever establish? Is there any one among my readers who knows how long it is before one gets to the point where he can think with his pen in hand? Where he can stand out of his own light and talk to his paper? This is exactly what I am now doing to this instrument. I treat it exactly like a phonograph. The Hammond type-writer is the most difficult of all the type-writers to learn—most difficult because, perhaps, it is the most perfect. It writes a larger number of characters and is capable of a greater variety of modifications. The difficulty of learning it is in the touch, and in the division of the letters of the alphabet between the two hands according to a fixed system; whereas, upon the others, the hands climb all over the keyboard, and any letter is liable to be written at one time by one hand and at another by the other. Upon the Hammond this is not so. Certain letters are always put in by the fingers of the left hand, and the establishment of an automatism upon this instrument consists of forming the habit of moving in certain directions with one hand for certain letters and in the opposite direction with the other for the remaining letters. It is a long time before one can write it as fast as with a pen. Hardly any rapid writer will acquire his best pen speed upon it within the first month's practice, and I doubt whether any old writer, accustomed to composition with a pen for years, will become able to think rapidly and freely, and improvise upon it, within six months. But practice will do it. It is now two years since I began, and I write, as already said, twice as fast with a pen, and think more easily, and feel better after a half-day's work at it. Now, this automatism of mine is fully as difficult, I believe, as any that enters into the playing of the easier Beethoven sonatas or any of the Mozart sonatas, and I have acquired it—it is the point—since I was forty-nine years old. Therefore, if I were forty-nine years old, and could not play the Beethoven sonatas, I would not hesitate to undertake to learn. It can surely be done. But it cannot be done by stretching the muscles, ligaments, or any kind of purely mechanical exercises.

I would advise the improvement of your technic, if possible, by the practice of Bach fugues upon the church organ, with two or three manuals coupled together. Two hours a day in this practice will limber up your fingers much more rapidly than anything you can do upon the piano. It will also make the touch monotonous, but not more so than your touch most likely is already. There is something in the steady pull of the organ key, especially when two keyboards are coupled together which has an effect upon my hand that no piano practice has. It gives technic in the old-fashioned sense of the term. For piano touch proper there is only one school, and that is found in the intelligent use of Mason's two-finger exercises. There are many exercises calculated to produce what is ordinarily called technic, but there is no system of mechanical exercises but this, known to me, capable of training the touch to the delicacy of Schumann's piano-forte effects and his discriminative

emphasis. Mason's arpeggios upon the diminished chord are exactly what you need for training the thumb. There is also an exercise of Seebodek's that would do you a world of good. It is the playing of scales, at first slow, then faster and faster, with the thumb and one finger. Take each finger in turn. Play all the way up and down the keyboard, or four octaves at least, with the thumb and the second finger (German fingering); then all the way up and down with the thumb and third finger, thumb and fourth finger, thumb and fifth finger. Take care in the latter, and in all, that the point of the thumb crosses the point of the finger. Exercise the hand away from the piano, passing the point of the finger, especially the fifth finger, across the thumb, so that the first or farthest joint of the little finger passes along the inner side of the thumb as far as the length of the nail. The thumb and finger cross, so that the end of each is a good quarter-inch visible beyond the other.

I would advise studying the following pieces, which, I fancy, will interest you, and will not be above your powers: Of the Mendelssohn Songs without Words, Nos. 3, 4, 9, 18 and 30; of the Mozart Sonatas, the slow movements in the Sonata in G, No. 14, Peters edition, and the slow movements of the Sonata and Fantasia in C; of Beethoven, the whole of the Sonata in G, Opus 14, the slow movements of the Sonata Pathétique, the first Sonata, and the air and variations in the Sonata in A flat, Opus 28. Of Chopin, the Nocturne in E flat, Opus 9, will not be too difficult, nor will the Prelude in D flat, in the Preludes. The Polonaise in A major, Opus 40, and the Polonaise in C sharp minor, Opus 37, will be practicable; of Schumann, the selections from the Forest Scenes, in my "Studies in Phrasing," and the Moszkowski Serenade in the same. For the practice of rapid finger work Heller's Tarantelle in A flat would be excellent. After that take up Raff's La Fléuite. At first you will think it impossible, but the chances are that by earnest study you will be able to do it. At all events, you must practice more or less music with rapid-running work in it. Wollenhaupt's Whispering Winds would be good practice for you as also Gottschalk's Last Hope. Take the ones you fancy most; practice one or more until you can play them passably. The first time you are through with them they will not go smoothly; later, after a month or two, you will be able to learn them better. I would advise the Technicon. I would not advise so much study on exercises, but what I did practice would be different. When you have tried it, let me know how the practice works.

[FOR THE ETUDE.] A SUGGESTION.

BY E. A. SMITH.

WHAT variety of thinking and opinion, what strange ways and confounding ways—sensible ways and senseless ways—have these musical people.

Ideas are a good thing if they are sound and clear, but when they rival the possible combinations of a chromatic scale they are complex and confusing in the extreme—not multiplicity of thought, but unity of thought; not diversion, but concentration. These are the growing needs of the hour. You may not wish to know why I think the musical a peculiar people in some respects, but I am going to lay the case before you (thereby escaping the responsibility of judgment) and allow you the privilege of judging for yourself—one of the blessings of a free country.

My scrap book is a good witness to call upon the stand, and from it gather a few of the discord, maybe not more popular than that of many other people.

In it I have found no less than a dozen of interpretations of the grace note. Standard writers and pianists are found to champion them all—not because they all are right, but because they were taught so. Well, who's to blame? The trill, the turn and shake are also three bones lying crosswise each other, and who is there able to give them the horizontal position of regularity? The various methods are a perfect babel of opinion from the rudiments to the virtuoso. They tell you to play with the fingers straight, with the fingers curved, to raise the finger curved, to raise the finger straight and let it fall curved. To raise the knuckles, to depress the knuckles, to keep the knuckles on a level, to play with a loose wrist, to keep the wrist firm to learn letters in bold clefts, to the very first, to learn the letters and practice only in the treble clef for a considerable length of time, etc., etc. They tell you that andante is slower

than andantino, and that andantino is slower than andante; in other words, translate it to suit yourself, as both definitions are given in several works.

Compare the various editions; they are a revelation; they not only give a different fingering, phrasing, marks of expression and tempo, but actually so change some of the original manuscript of great Bach, Handel and Beethoven must be despatched to the printer again and refused to recognize their own compositions. It is easy to see how some of these worse than blunders came about, but difficult to see just where the sin lies, and more difficult to know how to remedy it. Granted that Chopin, Liszt, et al., taught one day and corrected the next, abridging and revising even after their works had left the printer's hands; but there is a correct edition somewhere, and the best is what every one should use; but let any one name it, and he would be so set upon by the enraged musical world and critical world that he could easily pass for a martyr if he still adhered to his faith, or prove a heretic if he renounced it.

Tonch: what an inexhaustible subject upon which to wage a war of words. You can no more find two eminent teachers (unless pupils of the same teacher) who teach any one of the various phases of it and bring the same principles into play, than you can find day in the night.

Do you know there is no profession where all live the same. Then, I say there is no profession where all live at variance, where systems tear down systems to uphold systems. Grant, again, that all great men have been obliged to step out from the ranks of the common herd and create a way of their own, but is it necessary to tear this great man to pieces, to unscrupulously and inaccurately adopt a part of his methods for our own, and then condemn the rest as well as the man? Well, I don't wonder some of you blush at the names of Wagner, Berlioz and Liszt.

Did you ever compare the various Conservatory courses as given in their yearly catalogues? I would like to see two that are graded alike, that contain the same composers, that attach the same importance to the most important works, and that do not fail to promise diplomas at the completion of said course, thereby destroying all possibility of creating the same high standard of musicianship, and furnishing conclusive evidence as to the great need of such an organization, or similar, as the American College of Musicians, where there should be no room for error—excellence.

Church choirs are independent as the elements; their petty differences are proportionate. They conflict with the pews, with the rector, with the organ and with themselves; they have some jurisdiction, but not too much. How much?

All this complexity serves to amply feed the critics, who straightforward proceed to slaughter the good, bad and indifferent—precious morsel! The worst of it is, they can do it with impunity, with the best of motives, with the worst of motives, and who shall stay the relentless hand if such chance to be? Whereas, a little more of unity and definiteness would feed the multitude instead of the few, and partisanship would soon be absorbed, and in its place would stand a united and progressive people, worthy to partake of the harmonious feast that music should never afford.

I well understand how impossible it is for two people to interpret the same composition in the same manner. We have not the same sky two days in succession, and even in the same day it changes. The discords and hues of the rainbow, however, play the same notes, observe the same tempo, perhaps use the same edition, and not longer continue to enlarge the garment of discord by putting patches about the skirt; rather gather up the fraying edges and make of them a garment of unity and peace.

I hope no one will say the writer apparently expects all to play upon the same make of instruments, the same exercises printed upon the same quality of paper and practiced at the same hour of the day. No; that is simply the other extreme. I suppose these differences originated in a manner from the schools of all the world. So long as there is individuality and originality existing, so long will people differ in their way of doing things, and our people are not one bit more behind in these traits than any other people. What am I going to do about it? This brings me to the climax of my theme, and I am going to take the liberty of suggesting the possibility of writing a pamphlet in the M. T. N. A. to devise a way whereby at least one grain of unity may result. Why not concentrate its wisdom in a committee who are ranked among the leading musicians of our land—the world, if you like; a committee composed of men who would have the confidence of the whole Association; they at least would make some pertinent suggestions that would carry much weight. But, you say, where is the committee that can agree when individuals can scarcely agree? If not, then, as individuals, they certainly could as a whole. There is invariably division in reform; then let it come; but the reform and its result is the main thing—a necessity—and should represent the sum total. Subtract a few antagonists, and the movement is a wise one they will scarcely change the result. If not a wise one, it had better die, and then begin again. We should be no worse off than before. If the suggestion is not a worthy one or a practical one, condemn it.

NEW PIANO EFFECTS.

(ABRIDGED.)

BY GUSTAV STOEV, IN "DER KLAVIERLEHRER."

Translated for THE ETUDE.

THE term "effect" in art is used in several senses. As R. Wagner has well said, a work of art as a whole should be effective, and the greater and more sustained this effect the greater the work. But passing over this general effect, I shall speak of a few special effects which should occur but now and then, especially in piano playing, and which are produced by variation in force and time, by an exceptionally artistic interpretation, and by a striking or very individual rendering.

Of these different kinds of effects the first are the most artistic and, on that account, the most difficult. The unexpected, and therefore often startling, transition from "forte" to "piano," from "piu mosso" to "meno mosso," or vice versa, occurring at one time with preparation, at another time without, requires, if performed artistically, a complete mastery of the piano. It is necessary to good piano playing, viz., the ability to shade the tone by means of a good technic, a skillful use of the pedal, a clever rendering of the various degrees in force and time, and a theoretical understanding of the phrase in question.

I shall now describe several kinds of playing which, on account of the impression they make, are to be regarded as effects in the artistic sense, and which, I think, may be considered as new. If any one of them has been already used, I will gladly resign all claim to priority of discovery.

GLISSANDO IN THIRDS AND SIXTHS.

To my knowledge, glissando has been played only in single notes or in octaves; yet in smaller intervals it produces a most charming effect, and is much easier for smaller hands. As different fingerings can be used, I will mention the one which I have found to be easiest and most effective. The difficulty of the glissando, especially that of the double glissando, consists in the fact that different groups of muscles have to be used in entirely different ways. Then the position of the hand and fingers has once been taken, not only must the joints of the two fingers be kept rigid, but the distance between them must not vary. This severe tension of the different finger muscles must not interfere with the free movement of the arm muscles; as this is rather contrary to physiological law, this method of playing is difficult and requires much practice.

In the glissando in thirds (right hand), ascending, the lower key is pressed by the ball of the forefinger, the upper key by the thumb nail. Both forefinger and thumb must be straight and rigid. The elbow at a very sharp angle is thrown up and forward. Descending, the thumb, somewhat less straight, presses the lower key with its nail, and the third finger, straight and rigid, takes the upper key. The elbow is lowered as much as possible; the wrist, on the contrary, is held high.

The glissando in sixths is done like the octave glissando. The thumb takes the lower key with the ball, while the little finger, very sharply curved, plays the upper key with the nail. In descending, the fingers change their position so that the thumb, much curved, presses with the nail, whereas the little finger, completely straightened, uses the ball. Both in ascending and descending, wrist and elbow are held as in descending in thirds.

We come now to those effects which are produced by departing somewhat from the written text, yet in such a way that the difference is hardly, if at all, perceptible to the hearer. Here belong a peculiar rendering of the short appoggiatura and the trill, as also the adding to the chord of tones foreign to its harmony.

THE SIMULTANEOUS STRIKING OF SHORT APPOGGIATURA AND PRINCIPAL TONE.

When short appoggiaturas are repeated in quick succession, they are often dragged, especially in the left hand, so that, instead of being ornaments to the text, they detract from it. When short appoggiaturas occur in the bass, I usually allow pupils of the middle grade to strike them simultaneously with the principal note. This rendering is wonderfully effective, and is justified by the fact that notes which are in reality sounded at the same time, seem to the ear to have been sounded in succession. For example, take the charming prelude of Heller in A major. Here no one, unless forewarned, will perceive that appoggiatura and principal note are struck together by the left hand, but will, on the contrary, receive the impression of a bona fide short appoggiatura.

THE STRIKING OF SECONDS INSTEAD OF A TRILL.

In many cases too little time is given for the short trill, and so, as is well known, we must be satisfied with the double turn, notwithstanding the sign for the trill. The following expedient may then be resorted to. The two keys must be struck simultaneously several times in quick succession, upon which the trill is finished in the

usual manner. Thus, the trill consists of seconds instead of single notes. We find here the same underlying principle as in the rendering of the short appoggiatura, already described. The method is easier than the usual way, for the single *staccato* stroke produce the effect of two notes struck in succession, hence, need not be struck as rapidly as the notes in a real trill. On the organ the trill can be produced in the bass by simply holding down the two keys, for the vibrations, continuing, produce a natural trill; but as this resonance is lacking in the piano, the performer must strike rapidly and in time. This trill resembles that on the violin, which, as every one knows, is played by one finger. It must be observed here that this mode of trilling will deceive the hearer only; the performer hears the seconds and, if far advanced, will scarcely be satisfied with the device, though one who is not initiated can hardly tell this from a real trill. It is better, however, to learn to play the short trill with the thumb and third finger (the second finger is less advisable); in this case the hand is turned from the elbow, and this is decidedly to be preferred to the usual way of playing the trill with pure finger touch and quiet hand, for it can be sustained for a longer time and enables one to master more successfully all dynamic shadings.

This mode of trilling must always be supported by the pedal, and will be advantageously used in passages such as Chopin's "Walzer," where the hand which the composer himself undoubtedly played the trill at every repetition of the motif, although the text shows but one trill, viz., at the beginning; also in a part of Lanner's "Feuer Walzer," where the trill in question has a very surprising effect, bearing a strong resemblance to the trill on the violin; and, finally, in Beethoven's Sonata in A flat major, where the trills in the theme of the variations are generally given as double turns only. In this case the trill is more difficult, for it must be played with pure finger-touch by the third and fourth fingers, while other keys are held down. Here two trills occur, one in the twenty-third measure and the other in the twenty-fifth. I should advise that the former be played with a double turn in an animated *mf* tone.

THE SOUNDING OF TONES FOREIGN TO THE CHORD WITH THE CHORD.

This device, brilliant in itself, produces a truly magnificent effect when played with *brazura*. It is possible in the lower octaves only and with *ff*. It consists in this: When an octave has been struck, the palm of the hand, by a downward movement, presses three or four of the intermediate white keys. The octave appears as a strongly marked short appoggiatura and blends with its sound the tones struck by the palm of the hand. The strong vibration of the low strings causes the different tones to sound as one. This effect (of course, it is supported by the pedal) may be used at the beginning of a piece of music, or upon the middle of a fundamental harmonic,* or as a brilliant final chord. Thus it is really a pedal effect, in which the false tones are swallowed up by the fullness of the accord tones. When the octave is on the black keys the execution is very simple; when it is on the white keys the hand must suddenly be lifted and thrown forward, so that the palm may press the keys.

Hans Schmitt, in his article, "Das Pedal des Klaviers," mentions the simultaneous sounding of several adjacent seconds. He says that this is very effective in the highest octaves. This certainly is possible, yet I consider the effect in the base more sonorous. I should like to mention, also, that in the same book it is recommended that the thirty seconds which occur as appoggiaturas in the beginning of the Scherzo in Schumann's Sonata in G minor should be struck together with their resolutions. With regard to my trill effects, I might quote the same author, who pitifully remarks: "The attention of the hearer must not be called to the humbug, otherwise he will surely declare that he is not taken in."

In the May number of the *Atlantic Monthly*, Henry James reaches a dramatic climax in his search for the "Aspern Papers," which meet a most unexpected fate in this issue. The many admirers of Charles Egbert Craddock will be delighted with the artistic progress of her serial novel, "The Despot of Broomsedge Cove."

Among recent brilliant contributions to periodical literature, nothing more powerful than "Cicerone in the Senate," by Harriet Waters Preston, has appeared; it is an article at once entertaining, luminous, and instructive, and will add materially to Miss Preston's fame as an author. In "The Cavalier," the Argus Reprint, a strong side-light is thrown upon the career and character of George O'Conor. "The Emperor William" is the title of a remarkably intelligent article by Herbert Tattle; in a quaint monograph entitled "Po' Sandy," Charles W. Chestnut shows that the ancient superstitions of India have found lodgment even among the negroes of North Carolina; and Frank Gaylord Cook's thoughtful article on "Reform in the Celebration of

* By this expression I designate a harmony of sounds prolonged by the pedal. (See my essay on the pedal of the piano.)

Marriage" forms a logical supplement to his investigations with regard to the historical aspect of marriage. In her review of "The American Philosophical Society," Anna H. Wharton indicates particular reasons why we should be grateful to Franklin on grounds not heretofore emphasized. Olive Thorne Miller contributes a paper entitled "A Discord in Feathers." The usual Book Reviews and "Contributors' Club" conclude an excellent number.

[FOR THE ETUDE.]
MUSICAL NORMALS.

BY EUGENE THAYER.

THE annual "Normal Music School" first began, I believe, years ago, at Binghamton, N. Y., under Dr. G. F. Root, Dr. William Mason and other eminent teachers. If there were previous attempts, I have not heard of them. They have since been continued in various quarters by other teachers of equal or less renown. Two or more decades of trial have shown the merits and defects of the plan. The fact that one of its most successful promoters (Dr. H. R. Palmer) has latterly retired from the field would seem to indicate that the soil is pretty well exhausted. If this indeed be the case, it is well to cast about for some plan whereby suburban teachers may have the advantages of first-class instruction from the artists of our great cities. Many of these suburban teachers cannot possibly leave their classes in the busy season for a winter's sojourn in the metropolis, while they all admit the desirability of such a project. They need new hints about teaching, new teachers' lists, together with many ideas only to be gained by personal study with the foremost teachers; and last, though not least, some restoration and recreation from the patient and most exhausting labors of their home routine.

It seems to me that the plan devised by Mr. Sherwood is going to solve the problem. A brief outline is as follows: Several of the best teachers agree to spend a part of their vacation together in some pleasant and healthful suburban resort, giving a portion of their time to instruction, at their usual rates; that is, charging nothing extra for their expenses, etc. The senseless amount of time devoted to the Do, Re, Mi business in "Normals" (all of which they know already) will be devoted to personal culture and advancement. Only the highest grade of Recitals will be given, and no time lost by pupils boring other pupils by posing as full-feathered artists.

The writer has had an extended experience in musical normals, and sometime ago foresaw their probable demise. They died because the curriculum was not maintained at a sufficiently high plane to command the respect and patronage of those to whom the normals made appeal. My private opinion is that their disappearance is due to a violation of the fundamental principles of all teaching. "If you would convince a man, talk to him alone." While here and there a bright and talented pupil would receive benefit, the majority did not think the gain was commensurate with the outlay of time and money.

Science—depending on facts, figures and data—can be easily and thoroughly taught in masses or classes. Hence instruction in Harmony, Counterpoint, Musical Form and Composition, as well as The Art of Teaching, can readily be given in classes or by correspondence. Art—depending on personal examples and development—cannot be so taught, except in the most limited way. In the new plan all the teaching is private and personal; that is, each pupil gets precisely what he or she personally needs. A thousand questions and problems which they meet in their private experience can be readily met and answered—a feature entirely unknown in the old normal method. There may be some small classes in the studies above mentioned, but these will be either to be allowed to exceed the demands of absolutely thorough work. In the Art Studies, Piano, Organ, etc., the teaching will be wholly and strictly by private lessons.

The enhanced cost of this system, compared with the old plan, is so small that, when results are compared, the contrast between the old and the new is immeasurably in favor of the latter.

I am inclined to think that Sherwood's plan is the only solution of a problem which for years has vexed teachers and pupils alike. His choice of locality seems especially felicitous. The health-giving properties of mountain air are known the world over, and its scenic beauties are by no means to be forgotten. The many prompt responses already received show that the plan has met the wishes and approval of teachers and pupils.

Who calls a vacation which contributes as much to their mental improvement as it does to personal health and happiness?

All hail and farewell, old Normals! You served your day and generation faithfully, and we will keep you in happy remembrance. But the world moves, and we must move with it. *Solve et vale!*

PIANO TEACHING.

BY
F. LE COUPPEY.

The Capricious Pupil.—This is the pupil who is tired of a piece long before she knows it. She neither likes to learn what she has heard others play, or anything which requires long practice, and never leaves you without saying, "Won't you give me something new?" When she is going to play in company, she changes her mind several times; tells you, after a week's practice, that she wishes to give up the piece she has chosen, and asks for another. The new one is not in her style, either; she must have a third. This, perhaps, is too easy, and she returns to the first.

The Captious Pupil.—She talks about everything, not always to the purpose; she will not agree that one crotchet is equal to two quavers without trying to prove otherwise. Voluntarily or instinctively she will try to make out that you are wrong, and will accuse you of contradiction if she can find the least digression from the uniformity of your teaching. Instead of having the confidence in you that your talent and character ought to inspire in her, she takes advice right and left, consults this person, imitates that one, least proper to serve as models, and so gives you unknown collaborators. The captious pupil will always find excellent reasons for every absurdity, and thus loses precious time in a flood of useless words, as tiresome for the professor as injurious to herself.

The Vain Pupil.—This pupil only finds a piece sufficiently difficult when she cannot play it. To hear her talk, you would think she was on intimate terms with the greatest artists; that she was in the habit of receiving advice and encouragement from them, and often played with them. She never ceases to talk of her accompaniment lesson, and of the grand piano her father is about to buy for her.

The Frivolous Pupil.—She is from fifteen to twenty years old; laughs at everything; replies to every remark with a smile of a woman of the world, and considers the lesson a pastime and music a distraction merely.

We have also the *fault-finding pupil*, who thinks nobody has talent, criticises incessantly, and takes a dislike to every piece that is not of her own choice; the *discouraged pupil*, who is surprised at not succeeding without practice; the *nervous pupil*, who cries, and trembles, and chokes every time she attempts to play, etc., etc. There is no end to the different types that the teacher meets in his career.

A last word: When a teacher, after several years of care, patience and effort, receives in return for his zeal only chilling indifference, or exasperating ill-will, can it be wondered at that he ends by morally abandoning his pupil, by confining himself to the bare limits of duty? A teacher yields by contract his time and his advice; but his fervor, his devotion, the living powers of his mind and intelligence—these are given, for they cannot be paid for. They are given generously and affectionately, if in return he receives confidence and love.

XIII.

THE METHOD OF PRACTICE.

The advice that I have just given to pupils, applies less to the piano itself than to the duty they owe to the teachers who are called to direct their musical education. This advice would be incomplete if I did not add here some instructions on the best way of practising to attain good results with certainty.

I have already said "everything lies in knowing how to practise." The teacher, above all things, should firmly establish the fundamental principles which form the basis of good playing. He should next seek to initiate pupils to the special processes, to the thousand little ways by which the difficulties that are presented at every step can be triumphed over. The subject is a complex one, and to throw light upon it, I shall be obliged to enter upon some details which are necessarily very dry.

Practise slowly, *very slowly*; always keep the forearm perfectly flexible; press the key completely down, strike it with the finger placed very close to the ivory, quickly, with precision, in a firm way, so as to make the note sound distinctly, and to give to it a fullness of tone. This is the first rule, from which the pupil must never depart. The application of these principles has for its object the obtaining from the piano a full, rich quality of sound, a vocal tone, if I may so express it. Now if the arm is contracted, the sound becomes hard; if the key is not completely pressed down, it loses roundness and precision, and if the fingers are raised too high, in re-falling on the keyboard they produce a clattering noise, and the playing becomes hard and shrill. It must be understood that these rules which I have stated are all of the highest importance, and great care is requisite to put them thoroughly into practice. The different faculties that nature has bestowed upon us should be constantly alive to attain the proposed aim. Everything should be put into play; the eyes to watch over the holding of the hands and the movement of the fingers; the ear to appreciate the character of the sound; the will to sustain the efforts; the intelligence to analyze the details and to direct the whole.

When I spoke in a preceding chapter of the study of mechanism, I addressed myself more particularly to the teacher, but my words are now directed to the student. As I before remarked, without a serious study of mechanism, very incomplete results can be obtained. Let me again recommend that in this work a sustained attention and an indefatigable perseverance be brought to it. Let the pupil bear constantly in mind that the forearm must be kept *absolutely flexible*; that the exercises be practised slowly, *always slowly*, striking the keys with precision, with weight, and that the same energy must be expended in the action of the fourth and fifth fingers, as with the others. On this alone depends the equality of the strength which leads to equality in the intensity of the tones. I repeat myself too often, perhaps, but it is better to return several times to an important point rather than let any doubt or uncertainty arise.

A few words now on a detail relative still to the study of technique. Here I cannot very well avoid a demonstration which touches the anatomy of the hand.

It will be noticed in examining the conformation of the hand, that the fourth finger is under entire dependence upon the third. Between the two tendons, which on the back of the hand form, in some sort, the lower prolongation of these two fingers—a third tendon, placed obliquely, joins both and prevents the ascending movement of the fourth finger, when the middle finger is lowered.

Hence there is a difficulty, every time this finger is lowered on a white key, and the fourth is raised on a black. This fact stated, every intelligent student will understand that in order to make the fourth finger quite independent of

the third, it is necessary to practise particularly those exercises in which the two fingers occupy on the keyboard the position I have just described. This position is presented in both hands in the four scales: E minor, B minor, B^b major and B^b minor.

Since we are speaking of the scales, let me be permitted to reproduce here what I have said on this subject in one of my works.* "The equality of strength and the perfect unison of the hands, form the greatest difficulty in the study of the scales."

"The cause of this inequality rests in the left hand, which, besides its relative weakness, is generally exercised less than the right hand. To make the two hands move nearly equal, it will be useful, then, before playing them together, to practise the left hand separately and slowly." To this recommendation I will add another, that of running through four octaves so that the scale be measured, and that the accent may fall successively on the first, the second, the third, and the fourth degrees. In this way you avoid placing on the tonic an accent which, being reproduced every seven notes, takes from the execution of a scale the breadth and command which it ought to have. It is hardly necessary to insist upon the practice of the four scales before mentioned, where the third and fourth fingers occupy inconvenient positions, the cause of which I have pointed out.

I have now come to the special processes by which the many obstacles encountered in an étude or piece may be overcome. These processes necessarily vary, and it would be difficult to give precise rules. However, there are some few principles which cannot be departed from without danger, and those that we have referred to in the study of technique are here again applicable, insomuch as, to acquire a really fine execution, it is necessary first to surmount all the material difficulties which the gymnastics of the fingers present.

Before studying the piece as a whole, before attempting its perfect interpretation in style, color and character, there is a preparatory work which is absolutely indispensable. This work consists in converting into exercises all the passages which contain difficulties in execution. These passages should be practised slowly, sometimes with the hands separately, and the time should be counted aloud if the measure contains a complication of notes of different values. After practising them one by one, they should be united, two by two, three by three, *always slowly*, until they are known sufficiently well to be connected in their whole. These preparatory exercises may be modified in design, sometimes by adding a holding note to separate the rebellious fingers better; sometimes reversing the run, that is to say, practising the run descending, if it is to be played ascending, and ascending if it is written descending.

All this, to be well understood and well rendered, requires not only care and application, but intelligence and a certain inventive mind. I cannot too highly recommend this kind of practice, and I do not hesitate to say that if a pupil carries it out, he will master the mechanism and will acquire both precision and firmness.

Now what should be the number of hours that a pupil ought to employ every day in the study of the piano? How should the practice be distributed in this number of hours?

In answer to the first question, I would say that one hour a day, divided into two half hours,

* School of Mechanism.

will suffice for a child who is just beginning the study of music, for it is necessary, above all things, to avoid fatigue, and the dislike that it invariably gives rise to. But when once the pupil has accomplished the elementary lessons, two hours will become necessary for him to make good progress. Later, when he has matured a little more, if it is discovered that he has talent which promises brilliant results in the future, if he is endowed with an earnest and at the same time serious character, if an irresistible attraction leads him frequently to his piano, with three hours, and even four hours a day, these results, of course, will be more rapidly obtained. If later still he is destined to be a teacher, or if he aspires to become a distinguished artist, and if he has ambition that will warrant his achieving great skill, he will himself find time for a fifth and a sixth hour. Some particulars are necessary about the distribution of the practice.

PUBLISHER'S NOTES.

It is now generally understood that the music published in *The Etude* can be had in regular sheet music form. Every piece, after it appears in the monthly issue, is printed separately, with appropriate title. Any one who will subscribe for all the music we issue in *The Etude* can have it at an exceedingly low figure. We have printed a circular setting forth full information about this point. Send for the circular if you desire to procure good music at a very large discount.

The test of a work is in its enduring qualities. "Fillmore's Pianoforte Music" is a work that is used more than ever. The sales are constantly increasing by the book being introduced as a text-book into colleges and music schools. It is just what a live teacher needs to enhance the interest of his or her class. No better insight into the life and characters of the leading composers can be gained than is found in this book. It is a very readable book, and will make delightful reading during the summer days. No greater compliment to this work could be given than the fact that it has been reprinted in England by a prominent English firm.

"LESSONS IN MUSICAL HISTORY," by J. C. Fillmore, is finished. It is a work that teachers generally will desire. It gives a comprehensive outline of musical history since the Christian era, with one chapter devoted to Ancient History. It will impart such a knowledge of the subject as is indispensable to the graduates of conservatories of music and literary institutions. The work has been especially designed for instructive purposes, copywriting, original writing, and questions covering the subject of each chapter, extensive chronological tables, illustrations of obsolete instruments and examples of old notations, etc., etc. The book was begun in *The Etude* Dec., '87, and was continued as a serial for nearly a year. The readers of *The Etude* are therefore acquainted with the nature of the work. It makes a very readable volume for every musical student.

THEOPHILUS PREISSER, Esq.—

My Dear Sir—I have this day received and carefully re-examined Professor Fillmore's "Lessons in Musical History," and beg to say that it strikes me as the most convenient synopsis of musical history during the Christian Era that I have seen. Its clear style, its logical arrangement and the questions for the student's use in examining himself, are all quite likely to grow upon the reader's appreciation the more he uses the book. It is just the thing for a class manual of musical history, and if I continue in my present place another year, as lecturer upon musical history in the Chicago Musical College, I propose to adopt it there.

Respectfully yours,

W. S. B. MATHEWS.

Quite frequently we have inquiries for back numbers of *The Etude*, which teachers desire to use with their pupils, not only for the sake of the music they contain, but also for the reading matter. We have quite a number of these books copied for this purpose. They will be sold to teachers for that purpose for 10 cents each, or 75 cents per dozen. This is just one-half the amount of the subscription price. No doubt if these copies are judiciously used by teachers with their pupils, more good work will be accomplished by it than almost any other available means, at least it is worth the while for active, progressive teachers to make the experiment. No particular numbers will be sent. We will send those we happen to have on hand, but they will always be complete and in good order.

The second volume of "How to Understand Music" will positively be ready for distribution by the 1st of July. It will contain more pages than volume one, and be one of the most readable volumes of musical literature ever

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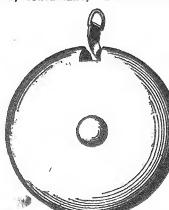
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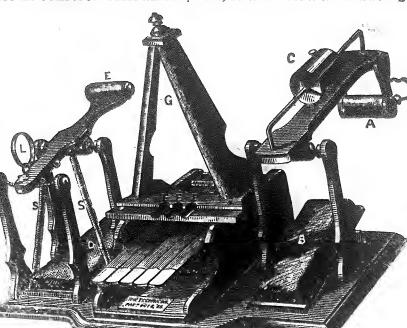
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